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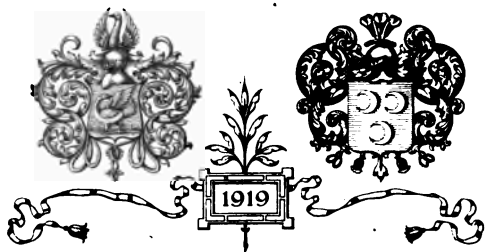
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*granddaughter of
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and widow of the
Honorable Abraham Lansing
of Albany, New York*

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Page 2

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THE
HISTORY
OF
TEKELI.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

OF

P. LE BRUN.



By CATHARINE B. THOMPSON

WITH HISTORICAL NOTES BY THE TRANSLATOR.

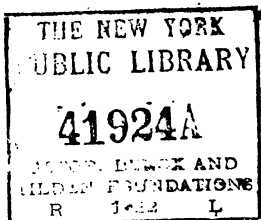
ALBANY

PRINTED BY H. C. SOUTHWELL

1845.

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McG



District of New-York, ss.

BE it remembered, that on the 18th day of March, in the thirty-ninth year of the independence of the United States of America, CATHARINE B. THOMPSON, of the said District, has deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof she claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"The HISTORY of TEKELI. Translated from the French of P. Le Brun. By Catharine B. Thompson; with Historical Notes by the Translator."

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an act, entitled "An act supplementary to an act, entitled "An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

THEODORE RUDD, Clerk
of the Southern District of New-York.

TO THE

HON. DE WITT CLINTON, L.L.D.

**PRESIDENT OF THE LITERARY AND PHILO-
SOPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK, &c. &c.**

SIR,

THE sentiments expressed in your able and patriotic Address to the Literary and Philosophical Society, having assured me of your disposition to cherish, even the humblest offspring of American industry or genius, I presume to dedicate to you the following work.

I have the honour to concur with you in the opinion, that "our country will be the chosen seat and favourite abode of learning and science." That firm and dauntless spirit of enterprise which characterises this nation; which animates its hardy sons, in pursuit of wealth, to close vigorously with the rudest forms of labour, and fearlessly to deride the most threatening appearances of danger; the force of that spirit will not continue to be operative in this pursuit only; it must, at length, impel numbers into the more elevated career of the arts and sciences.

The Muses also, will here find frequented shrines and favoured votaries. The stupendous magnificence of nature in this vast country; its forests, plains, lakes, rivers, cataracts and mountains, must impart to the conceptions of genius, a portion of the peculiar grandeur which distinguishes these great features of the two Americas; and when the cultivation of taste shall have given felicity of expression, they will no longer remain "unheeded because unsung."

That this country embosoms "full many a gem of purest ray serene," to the discovery of which nothing but the searching power of emergency is necessary, the annals of the republic uncontestedly prove. When we reflect that the convulsions of that revolution which gave birth to this rising empire, developed talents and virtues splendid as the brightest which illumine the pages of ancient or modern history; that during the succeeding interval of peace, the rapidity of our progress towards perfection in the useful arts, and the prosperity of our commercial interests were unprecedented and unrivalled; and, that in our recent contest with the most powerful nation on earth, American heroes have gained unfading laurels on that very element which has for centuries borne its proud flag triumphant from continent to continent; at these reflections, the coldest bosom must kindle with a glow of na-

tional feeling; a swell of national pride must expand the most contracted heart; and even the ungrateful foreigner, who snarls at the bounties he partakes among us, must acknowledge, that as a nation, we are indisputably entitled to "reverence ourselves." Even from our comparatively slow progress in literature, to the advancement of which a concurrence of so many fostering circumstances is requisite, we ought to admit no humiliating conclusion to be drawn. Though a "recent people," as Burke has styled us, we are certainly competent to repel the sneers with which foreign arrogance and prejudice notice our literary character. But can this be done while we are ourselves the slaves of foreign prejudices? While, implicitly believing that we are destined to be eternally nurslings at the bosom of "step-dame" Europe, we regard, with withering contempt, or, at best, with chilling apathy, the productions of native genius: Thus driving our native artists abroad in search of "kinder skies"—more benignant influences; and consigning native writers to the gloomy obscurity from which genius unpatronised, vainly struggles to emerge?

Anticipating your answer, Sir, I take the liberty to observe, that, from the cheering notice of societies like that over which you preside, and, especially from that of those distinguished

members of such societies, who unite every claim to national, as well as to individual respect, must emanate those genial rays which shall cause the "wilderness" of American literature to "be glad," and its now untrodden "desert to rejoice" in names that may vie with those most illustrious in the ancient hemisphere.

Relying on that patriotic spirit which appreciates every contribution to our native literature, how trifling soever it may be, I am confident that you will permit me the honour of inscribing to you the **HISTORY OF TEXELI**, in testimony of my admiration of the talents and virtues which render your notice an object of my ambition.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

C. B. THOMPSON.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE following pages form a digression, in a Romance by *P. Le Brun*; and from them, it is to be presumed, was derived the grand melo-drama—“*The Siege of Montgatz*”—which has been represented with almost unrivalled applause in Europe and in this country. I began the translation, merely to gratify a friend; the love of occupation induced me to proceed; and the persuasion that this narrative of a hero would prove attractive; and, perhaps, useful to the youth, the rising hope of our country, determined me to publish.

A desire to combine the instructive with the amusing, led me to aim at pre-

venting that confusion of fact and fiction which the reading of historical romance occasions: For this purpose, I have subjoined notes containing the facts which form the ground-work of the story.—As they are written professedly for youth, it is to be hoped they will escape the imputation of being impertinent; and this hope is the more confident, because, after careful research, the matter from which they are formed, could not be found but in works which are in very few hands. To the politeness of two gentlemen of distinguished learning and abilities, I am indebted for the use of “*Le Dictionnaire Historique*,” “*Moreri*,” (Extracts from) “*The Universal History, by a Society of Gentlemen*,” and a few books more generally known.—From these sources I have drawn my facts, which, scanty as they are, shed scattering rays of light over the chaos.

in which this period of history is involved, in the abridgments put into the hands of youth.

I have always thought, that Annals and Biography derive their peculiar interest and usefulness from the details in which they abound. What is called philosophic history, is too often dangerous to young readers; because each author of such history belonging to some sect, political, religious or philosophical, writes in the spirit of system: Facts are distorted, arguments invented, and characters fabricated.—From a too early perusal of such authors, the mind can scarcely fail to be injured; narrowed by prejudice, darkened by error, and its powers dissipated in the mazes of sophistry. Whereas, if, by acquaintance with Biography and Annals, the mind be prepared to inves-

tigate and judge, these philosophic histories are eminently useful; because they promote habits of arrangement, reflection, inference, all that gives felicity, vigour and efficiency to intellect.

In order to render the narration of "COUNT TEKELI," fit for the amusement and edification of young persons, I have taken numerous liberties with the language and sentiments furnished him by the French author. If I have succeeded in rendering the Hungarian hero sufficiently interesting to excite in our grammar-school inmates, a wish to become intimate with those whose memory is embalmed by PLUTARCH and others, I shall not regret having introduced him to English readers. If we admit, that "*the proper study of mankind is man,*" we must allow that this knowledge must

Be intimate in order to be useful. In the business of life, mere abstract knowledge may be utterly inapplicable in ten thousand cases, for one in which it is useful. The most despotic influence has from time immemorial been obtained, by those whom intimate acquaintance with men, enabled to operate on those little springs of action imperceptible to the careless or the vulgar eye. It is in moral, as in physical science:—To analyze the lightning and direct its course, the minute yet comprehensive observation of a Franklin was necessary. With these remarks, I consign to the patronage of the public, the
" HISTORY OF TEKELI."

C. B. THOMPSON.

ALBANY, FEB. 22, 1815.

Gansworth.

THE

HISTORY OF TEKELI.

***** VARIETY is agreeable in every thing, and especially in walks, because the eye is quickly satiated. In one of these rambles, they wandered a little from their usual path, and their attention was fixed by a small cottage which they had never before observed. It was built against a rock by which it was sheltered from the north wind; and part of the roof was covered by a luxuriant vine, clustering with fruit and promising an ample vintage. In front of the cottage, a small lawn and garden covered with fertility and beauty, bore the appearance of having been wrested from the dominion of the unfruitful bramble by the hand of labour and intelligence. The young couple advanced in order to observe it more nearly,

444

and perceived an old man who was seated alone in the centre of the little domain, which he had redeemed from the wildest sterility. His stature was lofty; his demeanour noble; and his countenance, though furrowed by time and sorrow, was strikingly fine and imposing. He rose, and approaching Sophia and Werner, with an air of affability, demanded what had procured him the honour of seeing them? "I am ashamed to avow," answered Werner, "that we yielded to an emotion of curiosity"—"Which now gives place to real interest," added Sophia, saluting the old man with marks of consideration by which he was apparently flattered. "Curiosity," said he, coldly, "is always barren, and sometimes offensive; the affection of men is deceitful; I have long ceased to expect any thing from them: I am self-dependent; I can be resigned and silent; for the earth will soon cover these ruins which are still disputed with it by a vigorous constitution." "Did not the:

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"respect which you inspire," answered Sophia, "forbid my intruding. I might, perhaps, prove to you, that there are yet men who are worthy of your confidence, and even of your friendship." "This conviction would be useless to me," replied he: "I have possessed wealth, and rank, and fame; no one can restore me what I have lost; a little more, or a little less, is of no consequence to me now. My fate is fixed. I wish for nothing but to remain undisturbed in my retreat—forbear to profane the sanctuary of misfortune!" So saying, he saluted them, and retired into his cottage.

Sophia and Werner withdrew in silence, and walked on, musing on what they had seen and heard. At length, in communicating their thoughts, they found, that they agreed in regard to the situation of this venerable recluse. He was undoubtedly some illustrious victim of fortune. His language and manners announced a man born in

a distinguished class of society; his extreme indigence must be the effect of the most cruel vicissitudes. Sophia bewildered herself with conjecturing what species of reverses they could have been, and whether they were merited or not. Werner troubled himself with neither; for men do not possess that exquisite sensibility, that generous sympathy, those delicate attentions to the wants of others, by which the feeble, but more lovely sex are characterised. The sympathies of man are excited with difficulty, and refer principally to himself; those of woman are spontaneous, and embrace all that surround her. Sophia scrupulously refrained from every thing that might have disquieted the old man, but she did not resist the desire of being useful to him. He found at his gate, now a basket of fruit, then a few bottles of old wine; another day, a loaf of white bread, or a cake made by the hand of the amiable Sophia. The faithful Brandt was charged with depositing those little offerings, and strictly enjoined

ed not to suffer himself to be observed.

Sophia's will was law to Brandt; he punctually followed her instructions; and without much concern about the past, present, or future calamities of his lady's *protege*, he slipped from rock to rock; watched the moment when he might unobserved leave his basket at the garden gate; and, having done so, retired with the same precaution.

The old man, in spite of his alienation from men, was not insensible to attentions which rendered his life less rugged and cheerless. Persuaded that he owed these little attentions to the lovely woman who had discovered his abode, he received them without feeling his pride wounded. It is from the hand of an interesting woman only, that a benefit can be received without humiliation. A man of genius and feeling, whatever be his age or situation, always retains some sensibility to female loveliness; this sen-

sibility is entirely extinguished only with his life; and the attractions of a benefactress, as much as her bounties, necessarily attach him to her. The old man would not acknowledge, even to himself, the strong desire he felt to see and hear Sophia; but he would have been sorry that she should not know how much he valued her kindness: A misanthrope might have so far relented. He knew neither her name nor her place of abode; he had irrevocably determined never to pass the limits of his little enclosure; but it is hard for a good heart to be incessantly receiving benefits without ever expressing its sensibility to the kindness to which it is indebted. He took a coal and traced in large letters on the garden gate—"I
" *divine the hand which relieves me, and I*
" *bless it.*"

Brandt, who read tolerably, easily decyphered this inscription. He read, and read it again, several times, that he might not forget a word, but tell his

lady exactly what was addressed to her. He repeated the sentence, springing from rock to rock, repeated it all along the way; and finally, repeated it to Sophia without the least alteration. She, in her turn, repeated it to herself; for, if we find pleasure in performing acts of beneficence, we are far from being indifferent to the gratitude which those acts inspire. Gratitude is a species of interest which an excellent soul may be permitted to draw from what it advances.

The old man was an exhaustless subject of conversation between Sophia and Brandt; the one spoke of him with the regard due to age, and especially to misfortune; the other said, that he was an old fool whose singularity was his only claim to notice. Sophia, gentle and liberal, suffered Brandt to talk on, and even laughed at his whimsical observations, while she was arranging a new panner for the next day. "He shall no longer be obliged to write with coal,"

said she, putting into the basket, paper, pens and ink. "But suppose I should answer him? I think I ought to do it—civility demands it. Besides, if he once engages in a correspondence, it is impossible that he should fail to discover himself, and I burn to know who he is." Every woman has a little curiosity, and to own the truth, there is no great harm in that. She filled up the basket with a number of well chosen books, and put on the top, a piece of folded paper, containing only two lines: "*What I have done is trifling, for I fear to displease you; but if you would condescend to confide to me your wants, I should be eager to supply them.*" This was indirectly engaging him to write. Delighted with her little stratagem, she confided it to Werner, from whom she concealed nothing, and waited impatiently for its effect.

As the old man had not dreamt of receiving an answer, Sophia's billet gave him a most agreeable surprise. He read

it with increased satisfaction, when he perceived the new resources that were offered him. He had long lived alone, and now found himself suddenly in the midst of a select society, which he could enjoy unalloyed by the vexations of tumultuous circles. He could now converse alternately with the philosopher, the historian and the poet; and from them imbibe elevation of soul, consolation of heart, and fortitude of mind. He could also write down his reflections, in doing which there is always pleasure; for every man aims at wit, has his little pretensions, and is pleased with being an author. He soon commenced writing, and with such effusion of soul, that his heart seemed to have been poured upon the paper. The subject was beneficence and the sentiments it inspires. His style was pure, elevated and warmly tinged with sentiment. We always write well when we are influenced by strong emotion. He read what he had written, and was pleased with it, for every man has his grain of vanity.—

“ Oh !” said he to himself, “ she would
“ read this with pleasure. I am indeed
“ unacquainted with her, but goodness
“ gives people a family air ; and the
“ portrait which I have drawn must re-
“ semble her : She would undoubtedly
“ recognize herself, and be pleased to see
“ that I have correctly appreciated her.”
“ But why,” pursued he, a moment af-
ter, “ why should she not read this ex-
“ pression of gratitude ? to offer her this
“ public tribute is only paying a sacred
“ debt.” Thus reflecting, he attached
the paper to the garden gate.

Sophia, enchanted at her success, was
eager to avail herself of the ascendancy
which she had gained over her corres-
pondent. She wrote as she spoke ; ex-
pressing her feelings with simplicity,
she gave free scope to her pen, and with-
out labour or effort, her letters received
that complexion of sensibility, that deli-
cate turn, that unaffected grace, which
fine women seem to derive from in-
stinct, and which men so rarely attain.

The correspondence soon became regular and animated, for both continued it with equal interest. Sophia carefully preserved the old man's letters, and Werner read them with real pleasure. The old man found in the letters addressed to him, a charm, which soon became necessary to his existence. It was not love which he felt for Sophia; he had only a glimpse of her; and besides, he had none of the foppery by which age is sometimes rendered ridiculous: Neither was it friendship; it was a delicious sentiment, animated by the vivacity of love, and chastened by the sobriety of friendship. No matter what it was; but it impelled him to devote to her every moment he could steal from labour.

Meanwhile, these letters, which Sophia took such delight in reading, afforded no gratification to her curiosity. Her correspondent observed the same punctuality; gave scope to the same effusion of sentiment, but maintained the

same reserve in regard to his history. She was not exacting, yet this reserve wounded her, and from a refinement of delicacy, or perhaps through a caprice, from which the most accomplished woman is not always exempt, she ceased to write to a friend who refused to make himself known. He complained of her silence. This she probably expected. His words were—"I have contracted the pleasing habit of reading your letters; this was my sweetest enjoyment; but you have suddenly deprived me of the healing balm which you had shed into my wounds. Will you be more cruel than Fortune?" To which she answered—"I insensibly became attached to you; I was your friend, but you are not mine. I have opened my whole heart to you; you have secrets which you refuse to disclose to me: Friendship allows no secrets!" After having thus written, she remained some days longer silent. The old man reflected on the part he should take. His repugnance to discover himself, was extreme, but

His attachment to Sophia prevailed over every other consideration. He took up his pen, and, heavily sighing, wrote—
“It will cost me much to disclose to
“you who I am; but it would cost me
“more to lose your affection. Come
“and see me. Bring with you the fortunate Werner. You would certainly tell him my history, and he may as well have it from me as from you.
“Besides, the husband who is honoured by your esteem must be worth knowing.”

Sophia, with joy and eagerness, called Werner; shewed him the billet she had received; took his arm, and they hurried towards the cottage. Arrived there, they all accosted each other like old friends who had just met after a long separation, of which they had been mutually impatient. Though strangers, they felt no constraint—the spontaneous sympathy of good men triumphs over reserve and distrust.

They sat down under an arbour of honey-suckle; Sophia and Werner were silent, but looked at their venerable host with an air that invited him to speak.—
“I exact from you,” he began, “the
“most inviolable secrecy in regard to
“what I am going to communicate to
“you. Were I known in this country,
“I should be exposed to the importunities,
“the insulting pity, the contempt
“that men so profusely lavish on the
“unfortunate. You, madam, have accused
“me of not being your friend;
“but I have been devotedly attached
“to you, from the moment in which I
“received your first letter. You have
“also reproached me with concealing
“myself from you, while you suffered
“me to read the inmost recesses of your
“heart. Alas! how different are the
“subjects of our internal reflections.
“We love to speak of our happiness,
“which we increase while communicating
“it to the bosom of friendship.
“You entertain me with your felicity.

“but, for me, I have nothing to relate
“to you, but a long series of calamities,
“the history of which will grieve your
“heart without imparting consolation
“to mine. But no matter; since you
“wish for my confidence, I can no
“longer refuse you any thing. I am
“TEKELI.”

At the name of this extraordinary man, a soldier and a general from the age of fifteen, combatting the oppressors of his country; receiving the crown of Hungary; declared prince of Transylvania, and reducing the German empire to the verge of perdition; Werner, struck with astonishment and respect, rose and listened to his recital standing and uncovered.

HISTORY OF TEKELI.

DURING the war of thirty years which ravaged Germany, the Turks had suspended hostilities against the Hungarians.* Amurath IV. engaged in his conquests in Persia, had been unable to turn his arms against the Christian states. The whole of Transylvania was under the dominion of princes with whom the emperors of Germany were obliged to temporize; the rest of Hungary remained in quiet possession of its privileges, when Leopold I. ascended the Imperial throne. This monarch, jealous of his rights, and destitute of the qualities which form great sovereigns, oppressed subjects, from whose loyal services he might have derived support, but whose discontent became fatal to his power.

Leopold, nevertheless, was not born with bad dispositions. Now, when age

* See Note A. at the end of the Volume.

has calmed the violence of my passions, I feel pleasure in doing him justice. He was serious, but affable ; had he possessed the art of giving, he might have acquired the reputation of being a generous prince ; but his bounty became mere prodigality, because he was lavish without discernment. He acquired in the continual wars in which he was engaged, an asperity of character which often prevailed over his natural mildness. His greatest fault was an extreme facility. He yielded himself entirely to the direction of ministers, who abused their ascendancy to glut the most sordid avarice. Hence the excessive imposts, the vexations, the juridical assassinations—hence the revolutions, the wars, the incalculable calamities that afflicted Hungary.

The Hungarians, of a brave, and, consequently, haughty character, were willing to acknowledge the emperor's authority as a chief, but not to feel his power as a master. The violation of

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their privileges* roused them to rebellion; and when a warlike people have recourse to arms, they do not readily abandon them. The Hungarians rallied round the principal nobles of the country; among them, my father, Etienne Tekeli, held that distinguished rank to which his personal qualities, as well as his fortune, entitled him. He accepted, without hesitation, the command to which he was appointed. He loved his country; in addition to which, he had personal injuries to avenge—the blood of his relations, of his friends, had flowed at Vienna upon scaffolds. He, himself, had been accused of having engaged in the conspiracy of Count Serini,† with whom he was not even acquainted.—Conspiracy was the pretext, his immense riches the motive of an accusation, known to be utterly unfounded. This terrible word, *conspirator*, is the engine, by means of which tyrants, of every age have, with impunity, rid themselves of those they feared or hated.

* See Note B.

† See Note C.

Leopold* sent a body of troops against the castle of Kewes, into which my father had retired with the flower of the Hungarian nobility. I was born amidst the bustle and confusion of war ; and had scarcely passed the age of infancy, when I had an opportunity to witness the excesses to which men coolly give themselves up, at the command of a master, from whose success they have nothing to hope, and of whose schemes they are accounted unworthy to be informed. The imperial soldiers attacked with fury and hatred, an oppressed people, with whom they ought to have sympathised, and who defended themselves with the courage of despair. My father was every where directing the defence of the place, and I was always at his side. From his lessons and example, I learned to vanquish the dread and horror with which every thinking being is inspired by the spectacle of destruction. Peaceable inhabitants of ci-

* See Note D.

ties, if the whirlwind in which you are rocked, permitted you to reflect, if you had courage to think of past generations, what bitterness would be mingled in your pleasures! How would you be shocked to find yourselves revelling with insensibility, where repose the ashes of the human species, and trampling with a light foot upon the ruins of antiquity!

The walls of the castle of Kewes began to crumble under the continued fire of numerous artillery; and though a general assault was expected, not a man spoke of surrendering, but all prepared to die rather than capitulate.—My father was suddenly seized with unnatural convulsions.* He was carried home, and as I was following him, weeping in an agony of grief, he said to me—“I am dying, and by the hand of the enemy; the barbarians have at last found means to vanquish me—I am

* See Note. E.

"poisoned. Cherish life, that thou
"may'st avenge thy father, and support
"the rights of thy country." With
these words he expired. I was then fifteen* years old, and found myself without support, without a guide, and exposed to all the rigours of misfortune, alone, amidst a crowd of warriors, who shewed, that though my name impressed them with respect, my extreme youth was not calculated to inspire them with confidence. Dismayed at this universal desertion, I threw myself into the arms of an old domestic who was attached to the memory of my father, and who undertook to save me. He invested me with the livery of wretchedness, and in this disguise I left the castle, and crossed the camp of the imperialists as a retailer of brandy.

I arrived in safety at the head of the entrenchments which the Hungarians had made, three miles upon the right of

* See Note F.

of Kewes. Having discovered myself to the advanced guards, I was conducted to the quarters of the commandant, Count Ragotzi, who received me affectionately; but considering me a mere child, he spent but little time with me, and, departing to attend to his duties, left me with his daughter whose only assylum was the camp. Amelia (for this was her name) was about my own age, but she possessed much greater maturity of judgment than I did. In addition to beauty and sensibility, she was endowed with an energy of character which nature rarely bestows even on men. She censured my timidity, reproached my inaction. I know not whether nature had deposited in my bosom a latent spark of valour which an instant kindled to a flame; or whether her accents possessed creative and irresistible energy; but I became a soldier as I listened. My blood boiled, my eyes flashed fury; I snatched a sword, and swore never to sheath it till it had drawn the heart's blood of my father's murderers.

We soon learned that the castle of Kewes was taken, and that the imperialists had sought for me; that they had discovered my retreat and were marching towards our entrenchments. Alas! why did they pursue me? They had destroyed my father, confiscated his estate, and of all his possessions, there remained to me nothing but his name, and this name was a crime. "We will defend you," said Count Ragotzi, "but remember, that there are men to whom obscurity is disgrace. You are accountable to your ancestors for your future conduct. It is now in your power to choose, whether you will render your name illustrious or dishonour it for ever." Amelia clasped my hand, and I flew to the combat. The conflict was terrible. Three times we repulsed the assailants with frightful loss; and they as often returned, with renovated fury, to the charge. Count Ragotzi fell dead at my side; I had the presumption to take his place; and, by force of valour and conduct, I en-

deavoured to establish my pretensions to the honour of commanding those brave men.

Night separated the combatants. I was sensible that I should the next day infallibly be forced in my entrenchments, and prepared to retreat during the darkness of the night.

While our men were executing my orders to this effect, I hastened to Amelia, whom I found calm amidst the horrors that surrounded her. Dreading to announce the death of her father, I was meditating how to begin, when she anticipated me, saying—"We do not weep for heroes; we imitate and avenge them. Our situations and our interests are now the same. We are both orphans; we have lost all that were dear to us; let us unite our calamities; let us steel ourselves against the vicissitudes of fortune, and repair its injustice."

As yet I knew nothing of the nature of love, but I already felt its power.—The proposal of Amelia intoxicated me—threw me into a delirium—a transport, of which I knew not the cause.—Her uncommon beauty, this rare union of sensibility and heroism; every circumstance regarding her; every quality by which she was distinguished, was formed to attract, irresistibly, a youth, whose ardent and impetuous feelings were neither contaminated by collision with the world, nor restrained by the ascendancy of reason. I seized her hand, and drawing her after me, I put myself at the head of my little band, and in the most profound silence, we left our entrenchments. We advanced all night through rugged and difficult ravines:—Amelia suffered shockingly; her strength was not equal to her courage; I supported, carried her, made incredible efforts, and would have died, rather than have abandoned her. The Hungarians took compassion on us, and cutting down branches of trees, made a lit-

ter on which they alternately bore this young and lovely heroine. At the break of day we halted; I assembled my brother officers, and consulted them in regard to what resolution we should adopt; this deference to their judgment flattered them, and won their affections. The unanimous opinion was, that we could not keep the field. It was decided that we should disperse; that my companions should each return to his own home, and wait until some favourable occasion should call them again to arms; that I should depart for the court of Hermanstadt and solicit the assistance of Michael Abaffi, prince of Transylvania; that during my absence, my friends should use every effort to increase our party; and that I should write to them when the moment to re-assemble should arrive. They crowded round me and gave me all the money they possessed, and after mutual embraces we were going to separate, when Amelia advancing towards me, with a suppliant air demanded—"And what is

to become of me ?” “ Had I a sceptre,” cried I, in transport, “ with extacy
“ would I lay it at your feet ; but in the
“ melancholly aspect of my fortunes, I
“ foresee nothing but calamities, and
“ those I dare not invite you to partici-
“ pate.” “ Your heart is all I ask,” replied Amelia, “ in the possession of that
“ alone, should you prove yourself wor-
“ thy of my love, do I look for happi-
“ ness.” Speechless with emotion, I pressed her to my bosom ; and thus it was in a camp, amidst the tumult of arms, that Heaven received the first sacred vows of a young couple, proscribed and fugitive, possessing in the wide world nothing but love and hope.

Our courage had been sustained by the presence of our companions in arms, but after their departure, we became sensible of our weakness : We were alone, without experience, uncertain what route to pursue, and ignorant of the disposition of the inhabitants of several towns through which we would

be obliged to pass. A magnificent surtout, which Count Ragotszi had given me, my arms, Amelia's striking beauty, and the richness of her apparel, would combine to discover us. Reflecting on these circumstances, we fell into absolute discouragement.

Amelia sat down upon the brink of a ravine, and sobbed and wept in the bitterness of despair. I seated myself near her, and in attempting to dispel her apprehensions I forgot my own. My endearments imparted to her mind a portion of that fortitude with which her words had inspired my soul some hours before.

We rose and took the way to Maklar, but we had not walked two hours, before we discovered a small detachment of Austrian hussars who were scouring the country and advancing directly towards us. I prepared to defend my companion and to sell my life dearly; but Amelia remonstrated:—"Resist-

"ance," said she, " would be useless, it
" would only assure our destruction."
I yielded to her discretion, and, getting
behind a hedge, we crouched down in a
field of wheat, where, perfectly conceal-
ed, we soon heard the gallop of the
horses, which passed at not twenty paces
distance from our hiding place. We
distinguished the voice of one of the
hussars, saying:—" It was undoubtedly
" them that we saw ; we shall overtake
" them." Then I confess my heart beat
with the strong pulsation of fear ; for
Amelia, who clung to my bosom in
breathless terror, had convinced me that
should we be discovered, I had nothing
to hope from resistance. I have since
thought that the bravest of men sur-
mount the fear of death only, when its
terrors are effaced by the glory which
shrouds the hero expiring on the field
of victory.* The noise insensibly died
away ; I raised my head, and seeing no
one near us, we rose, and viewing the

* See Note G.

country around us, concluded to conceal ourselves in a forest which we perceived on the left, and to wait there till night. We accordingly crept along the hedge, and were about to descend into a hollow, through which it seemed possible to advance without danger of being observed from the plain, when at a turn of the hedge we descried two hussars.— They sat on the grass, were occupied in conversation and drinking, while their horses were grazing a little way off. I had no alternative but to surrender or fight; thus situated I did not hesitate; I had but one resolution to embrace: It was necessary for me to anticipate their attack, or I should inevitably be overcome; I therefore advanced upon the first, and before he could recover from his surprise I beat out his brains with the butt of my carabine. The survivor ran to take his arms from the saddle-bow, but a ball from my carabine brought him to the ground. I instantly untied the horses, placed Amelia upon one, and, springing upon the other, we

pushed forward with all possible speed. There was need of it, the report of arms was heard by the detachment which had passed us, they returned to the pursuit, and as we had neither spurs nor whip, they were rapidly gaining upon us; happily we were a quarter of a league ahead of them, which allowed us time to reach the wood before they could overtake us.

We plunged into a forest impervious by means of under-brush, and where it seemed very improbable we should be sought for. Advancing in a winding direction, I cut away with my sabre the boughs and brambles that opposed our passage, and after half an hour's labour we came to a little cleared spot about twenty or thirty fathoms in circumference. Here we dismounted, and, viewing our new fortress, we felt secure; for though our enemies might penetrate as we had done, they must come singly; and having to contend with but one at a time I had no fear. We sat down in

the centre of this little esplanade, and arranged round us the arms in our possession. I found that we had fifteen cartridges, and our business was with only seven or eight men. We listened for a long time, and hearing nothing, the idea of danger grew weaker as it appeared more distant; but as we recovered from the trepidation of fear we began to feel forcibly the imperious calls of hunger.

We had walked the whole of the preceding night and part of the day without taking any nourishment. I examined the surrounding bushes and found nothing but a few insipid wild berries. Had not Amelia possessed more reflection than I did, we should have been obliged to expose ourselves again to the perils we had just escaped. But she, rightly judging, that hussars reconnoitering in detachments must be provided with food, examined their portmanteaus and found rations for two days, and a guard bottle full of tolera-

ble wine. After having recruited our strength and revived our spirits by these refreshments, we began to feel the effects of the fatigue we had undergone. Amelia was so utterly exhausted, that she fell asleep : I wrapped her in one of the hussars' cloaks, and placing her head upon my knees, I watched over her. Her beauty, the warm and balmy sweetness of her breath, the tenderness which her interesting situation inspired, the purity and innocence of my feelings, combined to render this incident enchanting, and communicated to my spirits an intoxication that rendered me insensible to every thing but the security and bliss of the moment. At length, exhausted by fatigue and emotion, I also fell asleep. When I awoke, I found Amelia sitting at a little distance, and weaving a chaplet of some wild flowers she had gathered in the wood ; she rose, and with the fascinating smile of simplicity and intelligence, wreathed her frail diadem round my brow, saying—
“ Come, 'tis time that you should assert

“the sovereignty of the Hungarians
“and drive oppression from our bor-
“ders. Come let us depart. But here,”
said she, (continuing with a look of play-
fulness, but in a tone of enthusiasm,)
“here, when we have delivered our
“country, we will build a house and
“consecrate it to the memory of the as-
“sylum it has afforded us; nor shall
“you forget, that here Amelia crowned
“you sovereign of her heart, and de-
“fender of her country’s rights.”

Alas! alas! I have indeed revisited
that spot, but I was alone and desolate;
the crown had fallen from my brow;
my country was subjugated and no long-
er afforded me an assylum. But, I
check these recollections and return to
my narration.

Leaving the forest, we followed at
random the first road that presented.—
We felt little apprehension of being
overtaken by our pursuers, who proba-
bly had fallen into the hands of an Hun-

garian party and received no quarters: Such were our conjectures, for we had seen enough of war to know how savage are its dictates; though we were as yet incapable of making any reflection on the peculiar ferocity of wars of faction. We were not then sensible, that wars of faction are wars of passion; and that the passions make a jest of outraging humanity.

After having advanced some time, we came to the borders of the T'eysse. We had heard, that the town of Kiskore, situated on the bank of this river, had declared against the emperor; this, therefore, was the place of our first destination; but as we knew not in what direction it lay, we were under the necessity of enquiring. Ignorant of perfidy, and unsuspecting of mankind, because unacquainted with them, we possessed none of the caution so necessary to persons situated as we were. Perceiving a handsome castle at a little distance, we thoughtlessly entered it, and demanded

the information we wanted. The proprietor of this castle was the Baron Caraffa, whose son was afterwards detained four years under the fortress of Montgatz, by that same Amelia, who, under the forms of the graces, concealed the talents of a consummate general.

The Baron Caraffa received us with a marked hospitality, which might, at first, have been sincere; we replied to his interrogations with a frankness natural to our age; upon one point, however, we deceived him; the idea of separation, even for the night, was intolerable, and we told him we were married. This story, improbable as it was, and which nothing but the extreme ignorance of youth could suppose credible, Caraffa, with the perfect dissimulation of a courtier, pretended to believe; and with artful blandishments, and extravagant professions of attachment to the Hungarian cause, completed my delusion, while my confidence in his sincerity was unbounded.

He was, nevertheless, a secret, but decided partizan of the emperor, and determined not to let this opportunity escape of advancing his interest with his master, which he could not fail to effect by betraying us into his hands. It was in his power to have arrested us immediately, as his domestics were numerous; but perceiving me completely armed, and reflecting that he himself might possibly fall the first victim of his own treachery, he doubtless thought it most prudent to dissemble.

At the hour of retirement we were conducted to a remote turret of the castle, which consisted of an anti-chamber to which several apartments were adjoined. Amelia, exhausted by fatigue, retired to rest, and wrapped in my cloak, I extended myself at the door of her chamber incapable of further separation. In this situation, unable to sleep, I remained absorbed in the contemplation of the sufferings of my country, in which reflection the fate of Amelia and my

own situation bore no inconsiderable part; I was suddenly aroused by a noise at the extremity of the gallery which led to our apartment; my reclined position enabled me the easier to hear it, and placing my ear still nearer to the floor, I distinguished the sound of footsteps cautiously approaching; it stopped at the door of the anti-chamber: For the first time, a glance of suspicion shot across my mind; I arose in silence, and, buckling my sabre about me, with a pistol in each hand, awaited the entrance of these untimely visitors. The moon was just sinking below the horizon, and her faded beams cast, through the casement, a ray of light upon the door. Should it be their intention to attack us in this situation, I felt confident, that my unerring aim would prove fatal to the two first who should enter; and I prepared to sell my life dearly in defence of Amelia. The outer door was unlocked, but it was confined by a bolt, governed by a spring on each side; the sound of the receding

bolt was distinctly heard, and the imagination in a state of elevation frames to itself a thousand shapes; mine was wrought up to that pitch of expectancy, that it had almost descried the figure of a man in the act of entering, when the confused sound of several voices in a smothered whisper, seemed consulting together; and I judged that their resolution for the enterprize had failed them. The sound of footsteps was again heard, and, applying my ear to the floor, it receded, and more and more faintly died away at the entrance of the gallery.—The noise entirely ceased, and cautiously approaching the door, I discovered that it was locked from the outside. It was now apparent, that my expectation of an attack was groundless, but that the sliding of the bolt which I had heard, instead of being for the purpose of entering, was to prevent our escape; this seemed completely effected and our fate was inevitable. I entered the chamber of Amelia, and communicated to her my suspicions; she had in the uneasy

presentiment of danger thrown herself upon the bed without undressing, and, awakening at the opening of the door, she had instantly arisen. We opened the casement, nothing was heard but the tread of the centinel in the outer court, and the faint rushing of the Teyasse against the rocky basement of the castle; the moon yet shot a glimmering ray, and by its feeble light, we could perceive no observer on the opposite side of the river. Our danger was imminent, one course alone remained. I unhinged several of the doors of the adjacent apartments, and cutting the curtains and hangings of the beds into bands, we bound them together with these bands, and by tying our sheets at the corners, we formed two ligaments; with one of them, and the aid of Amelia, I let down the raft to the surface of the water, and fastening the other about the waist of Amelia, by means of a double turn round the bars of the casement, I succeeded in lowering her until she reached the raft; next fastening the

ends of these to the bars of the casement, I descended myself, and cutting the bands with my sabre, the current bore us away.

The moon had set and all was darkness ; it was impossible for us to govern this frail raft, and with difficulty could we sustain ourselves upon it. Resigning ourselves to the direction of Providence, we drifted down the stream, until, by the beneficent direction of Him whose most insignificant works are yet the objects of his special care, a little eddy threw us upon an island covered with willows and rushes : A fisherman was, at that moment, tending his nets, and his skiff was fastened at the place of our landing. He had not time to recover from the surprise which our unexpected appearance occasioned, when, placing a pistol at his breast, I ordered him to take us to Kiskore ; at the same time that I assured him of his destruction if he resisted, I promised him ample remuneration in case of com-

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pliance ; he could not but obey. It was necessary to ascend the stream, consequently to pass the castle of the detestable Caraffa ; I assisted the fisherman to row, and encouraged him by promises, while Amelia, with a pistol in each hand, was ready to put it out of his power to injure us, should he have the inclination to do it. Scarcely had we arrived opposite the dreaded castle, when the hasty and confused passing of lights to and fro in the apartment we had occupied, convinced us that our flight was discovered. We had only time to row our little bark behind a projection of the rock upon which the castle was situated, when the dashing of oars was heard above us ; and, by the light of the flambeau which was carried by one of his men, we perceived that Caraffa, with a party of his domestics, armed with carabines, was pursuing us. As his boat was making directly for the point which concealed us, we concluded that the noise of our oars had also been heard by his party, and that we were already

discovered ; but his voice, soon after heard encouraging his men in the pursuit, and offering large rewards in the event of overtaking us, convinced me he had not perceived us. To escape, however, seemed impossible ; yet Amelia remained firm at her post, threatening the terrified fisherman with instant death should he dare to discover us. I placed myself in the bow, determined to sell my life as dearly as possible, and extending my head a little beyond the projection of the rock, I watched the movement of the enemy. The dreaded bark approached borne by the rapidity of the current ; the flambeau glared upon the water ; already had the hated light beamed upon a part of our little vessel, and we had given ourselves up for lost, when a sudden gust of wind extinguished the torch, and we respired.—The broad mass of shade from the overhanging turret, as yet, completely concealed us—but Caraffa was approaching ; the dashing of his oars cast the chill damp of death to our hearts ; the sparks

from the flint of the domestic, who was preparing to re-light the torch, seemed to us the harbingers of fate—fortunately his endeavours were unsuccessful, while the rapid stream swept them past almost within our reach, and we were saved.

As soon as the receding flambeau which Caraffa's servants had re-lighted, assured us of safety, we left our concealment, and the joy of our escape, inspiring us with fresh vigour, we redoubled our efforts, and, before day, arrived under the bridge of Kiskore.

This town is situated on an island formed by two branches of the Teyse. Its position and the works by which it is defended, had sheltered it from the attacks of the Austrians who acted only in small detachments; not having yet assembled in regular corps. Here were united four or five thousand Hungarians, faithful to the good cause. The

emperor had not a single subject within its limits.

I liberally paid the fisherman and dismissed him. We were stopped at a post at the head of the bridge; the commanding officer demanded our names. Without hesitation, I named Ragotzi and Tekeli. At the mention of those two heroes, the first victims of oppression, he was visibly affected. "Tekeli! "Ragotzi!" said he, in a stifled voice—"the son and daughter of our most zealous defenders!—Hasten, guards, in form Belleski—bring him hither!"

Belleski was the commandant in the town; he was one of those men whom the ignorance and pride of courts often leave in obscurity, but who want nothing but opportunity to display distinguished talents. He came; and, at the head of a numerous guard, escorted us to the government house. The report of our arrival was instantaneously spread; a crowd assembled round the

hotel to which we had retired ; the patriotic devotion of our fathers, and my conduct in the defence of the fortress, to which my father had retired, inspired these generous people with an enthusiasm amounting to intoxication. We shewed our sensibility to the honour done us, by mingling and conversing with the soldiers and citizens.— Charmed by our youth and affability, when night came, they illuminated the town, and spread tables in the streets, to celebrate our welcome with general festivity. They even marked, with branches of oak, those at which we sat, that no token of distinction should be wanting. Such are the vicissitudes of life; proscribed at Vienna, I triumphed at Kiskore.

As soon as we could dispose of ourselves, we retired, escorted by the noble minded Belleski. Love and heroism, those passions of great souls, separately occupied our minds in the romantic visions of the night. The heroic

Imagination of Amelia fancied me at the head of an army, at an age when one is scarcely a soldier. I sought, I attacked Leopold: He fled from his capital: His throne crumbled before me: Hungary was free: Our fathers were avenged! O! had the coward Mustapha been a man, these chimeras would have been realised!

When I awoke, I found various dresses, enriched with all the rarest ornaments which luxury can boast.

The same provision was made in the chamber of Amelia, and when I met her, adorned in all the splendour of dress, and all the loveliness of beauty, my whole soul was absorbed in the pleasure of beholding her.

The battalions were assembled in the public square; we appeared, and were saluted by a discharge of musketry, and by the acclamations of the army. I seized a banner, and waving it in the

air:—"Hungarians!" I cried, "by all
"my hopes of glory and of happiness!
"By my father's fate! By the death
"of Ragotzi and other illustrious vic-
"tims of imperial tyranny! I swear,
"to devote myself to the cause of my
"oppressed country! Death to the ty-
"rant—and never be our rights aban-
"doned!" Reiterated acclamations
echoed this sentiment, and carried the
enthusiasm from rank to rank. Amelia
untied a magnificent sash which en-
circled her waist, cut it in slips, and dart-
ing along the lines, attached a slip to
each standard, saying to those that bore
them:—"Gallantly support these ban-
"ners, under which are defended the
"sacred rights of Hungary, and the
"daughters, wives and mothers of
"her heroes!" Another shout of—
"Long live the memory of Tekeli and
"Ragotzi! Long live their brave and
"heroic children!" rent the air and ele-
vated my spirits almost to madness.—
I have since received honours more dis-
tinguished, when at the head of four

hundred thousand men, but never was the satisfaction of that moment transcended. Was it to be wondered at? I then enjoyed for the first time, the tribute that men offer to heroes; though I had, as yet, given only the hope, that I should one day be worthy of it.

When the garrison and citizens were informed of the infamous treachery of Caraffa, they tumultuously demanded his life; and forcing Belleski to head them, prepared to march instantly against him. Hearing the commotion, I ran to learn the cause of it. If Caraffa had been at the head of ten thousand men, I should have been for meeting him and punishing his baseness, or perishing in the attempt; but he was surrounded only by a few valets and dependents whom it would have been infamous to attack. Young as I was, I could not stoop to avenge myself by assassination. I cried out to these brave, but deluded men—"It is against Leopold that we must direct our ven-

“geance ; it is him that we must punish
“for the vexations that have put arms
“into our hands ; but to massacre a de-
“fenceless individual is the employment
“of banditti ; and here are none but
“soldiers !” Amelia flew into my arms
in a transport of satisfaction, exclaiming,
“this sentiment is worthy of Tekeli.”

The waves of insurrection which had been raised by a few words, were calmed with the same facility. Such are the people ! They strike or pardon at the will of those who direct them.—Privileged beings, whom circumstances have placed at the head of nations, you alone inspire them with the virtues, or contaminate them with the vices, of your own characters : You alone are the causes of their excesses, and you alone are answerable for the consequences ! Tremble, if you abuse your power ; the judgment of posterity awaits you !

When all was quiet, we concerted with Belleski the measures which were

to be taken. He had served in Transylvania, and was acquainted with Abaffi, whom he represented as a good and easy prince, equally incapable of great crimes and of distinguished virtues; one of those who swell the list of obscure sovereigns whose names history preserves merely as historical epochs. The princess, lively, graceful and intelligent, had gained absolute ascendancy over him; on her, therefore, depended the success of our negotiations. On this I secretly congratulated myself; for though I adored Amelia, I was pleased with the idea of treating with a woman whom the advantages of a fine figure and graceful manner, would probably dispose to favour my cause. Vanity had its part in this calculation; but it is so long ago that it has none in the recollection of it.

Belleski would not permit us to appear at the court of Hermanstadt as mere adventurers. He therefore detained us, till he could form for us a reti-

nue, conformable to the honourable mission with which we were charged. These days of leisure I consecrated to the study of the art of war.

When the day of departure approached, Amelia took me by the hand and led me into Belleski's cabinet. "Heaven," said she, "has received our mutual vows; I go with you to the court of Abaffi; my appearance there must be without imputation, and in sharing your destinies, it is proper that I become your wife." This was to fulfil my dearest wishes; the orders of Belleski were instantly given; the altar was adorned; the incense smoked, and we were united forever.*

We were now to quit this hospitable town. Belleski led my wife and me to a superb equipage; thirty domestics of both sexes were on horseback and in different carriages; two hundred hus-

* See Note H.

cars, perfectly equipped and mounted, presented themselves as our escort; several baggage waggons, filled with our effects, and the necessary provisions, closed the convoy.

We exchanged embraces with our generous friend Belleski, and left Kiskore enriched by the affections and the bounties of its inhabitants.

We reached the frontier of Transylvania without opposition or delay; for in the country through which we passed, we met only scattered detachments of Austrians who durst not attack us, because the inhabitants were disaffected to the Emperor, and would not have assisted them.

At Lugos, the last town in the limits of Hungary, we halted; and I despatched a faithful and intelligent officer to Abaffi, not thinking it proper to enter his dominions with a military escort so numerous, unless I obtained his per-

mission to do so. To him I wrote in very pressing terms, stating, briefly, the object of my mission; to the princess, I addressed a letter of the same import, but expressed in a manner exceedingly flattering to her vanity. While I waited the return of my courier, I traced a plan for a campaign; a plan which has since been admired by the officers of the Emperor. I had not, indeed, the advantage of personal experience; but my father was a soldier; and for myself, born, as I have before observed, amidst the storms of war, the roar of arms had been the music which lulled my infancy; and if I possessed any talents, they were that quickness of observation, the result of which seems intuitive perception; that readiness of combination which from disjointed particulars instantaneously forms a whole; and that promptitude of decision which gives celerity and vigour to military operations. These qualities were the offspring of circumstances; I had no right to be vain of them; for, even then,

I felt that the gentle and lovely Amelia possessed them in a higher degree than I could boast. Alas! of what avail were they to her or me, or even to the object of our mutual devotion, our insulted, oppressed and suffering country? How awfully does the resistless despotism of circumstances prostrate the wisdom, the pride, and the energy of mortals!

At the retrospect of this first important step, in a career, the course of which was marked by so many calamities, the venerable narrator's voice faltered; the fire, that had for the moment past re-lighted his eye, was quenched in tears; and he seemed unable to proceed; but, after a short interval, he continued:

The answer of Abaffi was more favourable than we had dared to hope. He expressed the highest respect for the memory of our fathers; and invited us to his court, where, he informed us,

lodgings were prepared for us and our suite, and funds set apart for our subsistence. He concluded by a promise the most flattering to our hearts, that of sending into Hungary an army as large as his circumstances would permit.

Caraffa's treacherous conduct had planted that sullen, yet restless sentinel, suspicion, in our bosoms; and it was natural that protestations and kindnesses so premature, should subject us to his monitions: I was afraid to put myself in the power of Abaffi; and my wife was afraid to advise me. But I soon reflected, that if it was dangerous to comply with the invitation of the prince, it was not less so, to return home. I felt sensible, that such a step must rob me of the esteem and confidence of my countrymen; that I should be regarded by them as a mere child, unworthy of commanding, and incapable of serving them. This consideration prevailed; and we departed for Hermanstadt.

We arrived there at evening, having travelled five days. The prince immediately sent to invite us to the palace, where we were received in the princess' saloon. Conformably to the etiquette of courts, we bent the knee as we accosted them ; they raised and embraced us with every appearance of the sincerest and most lively cordiality.

After the first compliments, the prince directed the conversation to the business on which I had come. He enquired concerning the state of our affairs, the hopes of the Hungarian party, and particularly concerning my individual purposes. After satisfying him on the two first articles, I produced my plan of a campaign. He examined it in concert with a nobleman who appeared high in favour. They spoke low, but they looked at me at intervals, with an air of approbation which did not escape me. "Yes," said the prince, approaching me, "this precocity of intellect is truly astonishing, my resolution is already

“ taken ; I will begin the war with Leopold, and you alone are worthy to command my armies.”

The place of residence assigned us, was a wing of the palace, comprising a suite of rooms stored with every article of convenience and elegance. The officer appointed to receive us, opened all the cabinets, and put us in possession of all they contained. Among other things, he shewed us a casket containing twenty thousand ducats, which were intended for our use.

When left alone, we talked over the circumstances of our reception ; and as I had observed, that the conversation between Amelia and the princess had been lively, and apparently familiar, I was in hopes, that my young wife had penetrated some one of the motives which had induced the Prince of Transylvania to shew us so many distinguished marks of favour. In this I was not disappointed. In expressing the grati-

tude which she felt, Amelia had adroitly slipped in some words expressive of her astonishment at receiving favours, as yet, wholly unmerited. The princess, who was exactly of the character Belleski had attributed to her, unveiled to her, without the least difficulty, the secrets of the cabinet of Hermanstadt.

The substance of what the princess communicated to my wife was: That Abaffi had learned from Mahomet IV. to whom he was tributary, the intention of the Porte to break with Leopold, on the first occasion: That, should he continue on terms of amity with that monarch, he would involve his principality in a war with the Turks; to whom, his dominions, exhausted by perpetual contests, could oppose but feeble resistance: Whereas, if he gave me an army, he would provoke an attack from the German Empire, and thus furnish Mahomet with the pretext he sought; because he would then appear forced to assist his tributary. Revolted Hun-

gary would serve as a barrier to the efforts of Leopold; to Mahomet he had nothing but a few troops to oppose: This was so simply and so naturally accounting for the favours which were lavished on us, that it was impossible to seek other reasons for them.

While the various corps which were to form my army were marching from every quarter and assembling at Claufembourg, the court of Hermanstadt was the theatre of every species of amusement.

Every day was marked by some fete, of which the princess and Amelia formed the principal ornaments. The princess, scarcely thirty, dazzling in the zenith of her beauty, seemed less attached to the person and character of her husband, than to his rank; but her reputation was without a blemish, suffering no injury either from her own frivolity or his insignificance. Conscious and vain of her beauty, she was delight-

ed with the incense of flattery, but her pride would have taken the alarm, had any of her numerous admirers dared approach her as an object of love ; yet, the spirit of gallantry, united to that species of hope which vanity never fails to inspire, kept at her court a crowd of agreeable men. After a little observation of her character, I perceived that no influence could be obtained over her by means of the ordinary forms of flattery ; it was, therefore, always to her, that I addressed myself for the different objects necessary to the opening of my campaign. This deference to her understanding had the desired effect, I obtained whatever succours I wished, and it was amidst the most varied and the most brilliant amusements, that the downfall of Germany was prepared.

I prepared, at length, to put myself at the head of my army. It consisted of only twelve thousand effective men ; but I had the certain prospect of augmenting this number as I advanced into

Hungary; for numbers had already declared against the Emperor, and many others were only waiting the means of undertaking something with the hope of success. Thousands, I was confident, would fly to arms when the standard should be raised.

Not wishing to expose Amelia to the fatigues and dangers of war, I had determined to leave her at Hermanstadt, but on the first intimation I gave her of this intention, she so strongly opposed my design; shewed herself at once so courageous and so tender, and declared so firmly her resolution to participate in my successes or my reverses, that I found it impossible to resist her eloquence; especially as it was seconded by my own inclinations.

We took leave of Abaffi and the princess, and departed for Clausembourgh. I found my army encamped under the walls of the town, and in admirable order. The artillery consisted of sixty

heavy cannon and fifty field pieces; the military chest contained three months' pay for the troops. This was all that Abaffi had been able to do, and I made him sensible of my satisfaction and gratitude.

I resolved to enter Hungary immediately, and establish my magazines at Kiskore; then advance along the Danube, from Essek to Gran. If I should prove a reverse of fortune, and be obliged to retrograde, I was master of the Teysse, and might retreat into Transylvania by Kiskore. I was fifteen* years and a half old when I made these arrangements.

I assembled my lieutenant generals, gave them my orders, and we marched directly towards the territories of that Leopold who had assassinated my father, proscribed me, and oppressed my compatriots. Bihor, Pethelde, Fildech,

* See Note I.

and Kunkiegies,* opened their gates without resistance. Recruits, provisions and ammunition arrived from various places, and I was at the head of twenty thousand men when I encamped in sight of Kiskore.

I appeared before this town in a situation very different from that in which I had presented myself there, three months before. Belleski, delighted at my success, came, at the head of his garrison, to congratulate me. As he was one of those enterprising men who acknowledge no impossibilities, and who are consequently invaluable in the conduct of a *coup de main*, I determined to leave the command of Kiskore to an officer for whom he was willing to be answerable, and to take him with me.

To this he readily consented, and the next day my army crossed the town, and passed the Teyse. We advanced

* See Note K.

by forced marches, and in three days, arrived on the banks of the Danube.—The little town of Zambock, which resisted our progress, was carried in three hours, and the garrison put to the sword. It was essential for us to secure Pest, a strong place on the Danube; but I was unwilling to incur the delays of a regular siege. My plan was to advance with the utmost rapidity, and carry every place that resisted, before the Emperor had time to put in action an army powerful enough to check me in the career of victory. I assembled my officers, consulted them on the dispositions of the soldiers, and learning, that their ardour, discipline and fidelity might be perfectly relied on, I decided that we should hazard every thing to carry the place by assault. We marched all night, and, two hours before day, I advanced at the head of two thousand cavalry, to reconnoitre the country.—Report, which always exaggerates, had represented my army as consisting of

one hundred thousand men; and a general panic was spread. Sensible that excessive fear renders men incapable of acting or reasoning, I had the boldness to advance to the glacis, and summon the governor to surrender: He came in person to the gate, and offered terms of capitulation. He demanded much, but I granted him nothing, save the honours of war; and an hour after the capitulation, he evacuated the city.—His troops filed off before me, and deposited their arms at my feet. Daylight now appeared, and the commandant, desperate at having surrendered to a handful of men, destroyed himself. I garrisoned the place with five hundred cavalry, and advanced with the remaining fifteen hundred to attempt to reconnoitre towards Buda. On that side of the Danube, my rapid march and first success were not known. At Buda, such security prevailed, that the garrison were exercising in a meadow, half a league distant from the city. Judging this to be the decisive moment, I rushed

from a little wood which concealed me from their view, and fell suddenly upon these troops, who, disconcerted at an attack so unexpected, instantly broke, and fled towards the advanced posts.—We pursued them, sword in hand, and entered the city with the fugitives.—Consternation was now at its height; the Imperialists threw down their arms, and my soldiers triumphed without having fought. I was obliged to put the garrison in irons, as all my followers would not have been sufficiently numerous to guard the vanquished, who amounted to three thousand effective men. Meanwhile the main body of my army were advancing in good order. Belleski could scarcely recover from his astonishment, when he saw our flag waving upon the ramparts of Pest; but when he learned that we were masters of Buda, also, he wrote me a letter glowing with admiration, and despatched couriers to inform Abaffi of this brilliant debut.

As soon as the main body of the army came up, I gave Belleski six thousand men, and ordered him to go down the river as far as Essek; to fortify all the tenable positions; leaving in them sufficient garrisons; and to join me before Gran, which I was determined to besiege. These orders he executed with his usual valour and intelligence.

Gran is regularly and strongly fortified, and as the report of the taking of Pest and Buda, had preceded me there, the enemy were prepared for a vigorous resistance. As I had not a sufficient number of men to invest the place, I made my attack on the side of Pilis.—The third day after opening the entrenchments, I carried the out-works, and opened my batteries upon the town. A hundred and twenty pieces of cannon bore night and day upon the ramparts; bombs and red-hot balls were showered into the place without interruption; yet the commandant shewed not the least disposition to surrender. Irritated at a

resistance which threatened to derange my plans, I caused scaling ladders to be prepared, and gave the order for a general assault. My soldiers advanced with shouts of joy, and I flew at their head, sword in hand. I lost twelve hundred men before I arrived at the reverse of the ditch, which we at last crossed, upon the bodies of the dead and dying. The scaling ladders were planted, and we mounted amidst a shower of musquetry. The enemy, disconcerted by our intrepidity, abandoned the ramparts and entrenched themselves in the city. Every house then became a fortress, every street, the theatre of a bloody combat. Our fortune, at last, triumphed over every difficulty. The Imperialists, forced on all sides, demanded quarter. We granted it, and rendered to their brave commandant the honours due to his distinguished valour.

My progress threw the court of Vienna into the most lively alarms. Leo-

fold, who, like all sovereigns, that are neither born with superior qualities, nor formed in the school of misfortune, was destitute of resources in himself; Leopold, who wielded the destinies of a mighty empire, trembled for his dominions. I was within fifty leagues of his capital, and had I, at that moment, possessed sixty thousand men, his terror should not have been vain; we would have subverted his throne, and dashed to pieces the colossal system of tyranny that upheld it.

Such were the hopes inspired by the desire of vengeance, by the ardour of youth, and the love of my country; hopes, which I am, even now, persuaded, might have been realized, had I not been obliged to weaken my army to guard my conquests. I had garrisons in fifteen different places, and there remained to me hardly fifteen thousand men, of whom I could dispose. The Emperor had it in his power to oppose to me an army vastly superior in num-

ber; John Sobieski, king of Poland; Charles V. duke of Lorraine, and several German princes were actually arming in his favour: But he examined neither his own resources nor mine; he listened to nothing but his fears, and sent deputies to demand a truce.* I received them under a canopy, at the head of my army; I conducted the negotiation, not as a discontented subject, but as an irritated victor, who disdained formalities. I signed a truce for three months, on condition, that I should receive from the Imperial treasury, twelve hundred thousand ducats, as an indemnity for my confiscated possessions, and those of my wife.† I retained hostages as pledges on the part of Leopold, and refused to give any in return. I, however, rigorously kept the conditions which I had imposed on myself; but did not fail to make the most advantageous use of a suspension of arms to which I had agreed; merely, that I might

* See Note L.

† See Note M.

be enabled to prepare for more important enterprises.

The state of Amelia's health made it impossible for her to accompany me ; therefore, confiding her to the care of Belleski, I left them at Gran, with six thousand chosen men, and putting the rest of my troops in garrison, at Pest and Buda, departed for Constantinople.* I arrived there, preceded by the most brilliant reputation. I was adored by my party, and even my enemies conceded to me the palm of greatness, though I was scarcely sixteen years old.

Mahomet IV. considering me as an officer who was proper to second his designs, received me with cordiality ; the Ottoman haughtiness softened ; the austerity of the seraglio suffered a momentary relaxation ; and he even permitted his wives to see me through a light

* See Note N.

screen which concealed them from observation. One of them, whom I afterwards learned was the favourite, preserved a remembrance which was useful to me in my misfortunes.

The Sultan had conceived a project to extend his frontiers in Europe, or at least, to form a barrier between the Emperor and himself. To effect this, he had thought of conquering, or of disfranchising Hungary ; at any rate, he had determined to push his advantages there, as far as circumstances would permit. I revolted at this design ; for I could not endure the idea of the subjugation of my country ; and notwithstanding the flattering promises of the grand vizier, I remained faithful to my principles and my party.

Mahomet concluded, within himself, that a man whose political integrity was incorruptible, would perform exactly and inviolably, whatever he should promise ; he, therefore, changed part of his

design, and made me offers still more brilliant. The throne of Hungary, and (after the death of Abaffi, who had no children) the principality of Transylvania, were offered me.*

To this offer, no conditions were annexed, except that I should put my dominions under the protection of the Grand Seignior; and that I should furnish him a certain contingent to carry on the wars he should undertake in Europe. I was young, brave, ardent, consequently, ambitious. Too inexperienced to be appalled by the weight of a diadem, I was sensible only to the glare of grandeur that surrounds a throne; and rashly relied on fortune. I signed a secret treaty, in which I recognized Mahomet as my lord paramount; and he, in return, engaged to raise me a numerous army, and to support it at his own expense.

* See Note O.

If Kara Mustapha, who was then grand vizier, had united to the splendour of his rank and obstinacy of opinion, the talents of a general, the empire of Germany had been destroyed; but since the time of Kouprougli, who conquered Candia, the Turks have not possessed a single general. This is not astonishing, since the viziers who commonly are raised from the most obscure employments to the first dignity of the empire, have the vanity to assume the command of armies. On my sounding Kara Mustapha, I found him astonished, that I could doubt his intention of commanding. He told me with a sort of acerbity, that "I should be his lieutenant," and added, softening a little, "that it would give him pleasure to follow my counsel." From this, I understood, that I was to be only the instrument of his success; that all the glory would be his; and I determined to thwart his projects.

While the Ottoman troops were assembling from different parts of Africa

and Asia, in the plains of Adrianople, I was intriguing in the seraglio.

Having won to my interests the kislär aga (chief of the black eunuchs) I ventured to write to the Sultana, who had conceived a kind of good will towards me. I supplicated her to represent to his highness the danger which would be incurred to his armies, if he gave the command to a man without experience. I observed, that possessing the confidence of my troops, and being acquainted with the country which was to be the theatre of the war, none but myself could subsist an army in it; that the Hungarians would probably refuse to serve as auxiliaries; and, in fine, it was suggested, that without the supreme command, a general who was destined for a kingdom, would appear only as a simple volunteer.

The kislär aga and the Sultana entered perfectly into my views. They hated the vizier, and perhaps the desire of humiliating him, had as much influ-

ence on their conduct as the solidity of my reasons. Be that as it might, they gained all those who had any ascendancy over the mind of his highness. He heard of nothing but me, my most trifling exploits in arms were related to him as extraordinary things ; it was represented to him, that the troops must be invincible under my command.—Mahomet hesitated ; my friends pressed ; besieged him incessantly—he, at last, promised ; and, for a moment, I prevailed over the vizier.

By a change of purpose, common enough to men without energy, Mahomet began to fear the consequences of his condescension. That a christian should command the Ottoman soldiers, was without a precedent ; and fearful of his janissaries, a band, at all times, the strength and terror of its masters, he felt the necessity of conforming to public opinion, and determined to adopt no definitive measure till he had taken the advice of the divan.

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Some of those who composed this council, easily penetrated the sentiments of his highness, and strongly supported his first resolution. These, perhaps, would have gained the rest, had not the mufti positively pronounced against this species of innovation. He declared, that the standard of the Prophet could not be confided to an infidel; and his opinion, prevailing with the divan, influenced even his highness himself. It was decreed, that I should be one of the lieutenants of the vizier, but that he should undertake nothing without consulting me. When the kislar aga had given me an account of what had passed, my indignation was unbounded; but reflecting on the imprudence of my conduct, I became immediately sensible of the dangerous error I had committed. By attempting to change the customs of the empire, in usurping the command from the grand vizier, I inevitably incurred his secret enmity, and this hostility would not fail to declare.

Itself, should my project be unsuccessful,

The subtilty of the vizier was a contrast to my own rashness; far from evincing the slightest animosity, he continued to treat me with undiminished respect, and when we departed for the army, was prodigal of the honours he bestowed upon me.

Never had I seen a more imposing spectacle than that which presented itself to my eyes in the plains of Adrianople..

The Turks had never assembled so numerous and so magnificent an army.* A hundred and forty thousand regular troops, thirty thousand Tartars from the Crimea; the artillery, artificers of all kinds, commissaries appointed for the distribution of provisions, others to the care of the equipages, the domestics,

* See Note Q.

&c. formed all together, about three hundred thousand men. The most incredible luxury was conspicuous throughout the camp. My tent was of cloth of gold; those of my aids were velvet. A hundred Arabian horses,* were presented me from the grand seignior; one of them had formerly borne his highness, and was richly caparisoned, the saddle and housing being adorned with gems of great value, and the stirrups being of massy gold. The others were covered with scarlet carpeting laced with gold. The equipage of the grand vizier himself, was inferior to mine in splendour. This magnificence, this almost innumerable army, gave me the most exalted idea of the Ottoman grandeur. I visited the different quarters with inexpressible pleasure, and had I possessed the sole direction of the operations of the campaign, I should have had no wish ungratified. I was limited to concerting with the grand

* See Note B.

vizier, of whose incapacity I soon became convinced.

My plan was, that the army should enter Hungary, and range themselves under the walls of Gran and Buda, from whence they should march directly to Vienna. The vizier, on the contrary, wished to cross Wallachia, Servia, Sclavonia, and to appoint his general rendezvous at Essek. I represented to him, that after having made so long a circuit, he would still be obliged to ascend the Danube from Essek to the fortified positions, of which I had made myself master; that so long a march would uselessly fatigue his troops and give Leopold and his allies, whom he ought to anticipate, time to assemble theirs. Notwithstanding the extreme obviousness and simplicity of these objections to his plan, he would not understand them. I was importunate, he obstinately resisted; I became angry, he coolly told me, that I had certainly a right to give him counsel, but that his master

had not ordered him to follow it. We separated, extremely dissatisfied with each other, and two days afterwards, I departed for Gran, foreseeing the reverses which the ignorance and obstinacy of the vizier would infallibly occasion.

In Hungary, I found every thing in the most satisfactory state. Belleski had considerably augmented my troops, who were well disciplined, well appointed, and in high spirits. Leopold had paid the sum stipulated by the treaty; and his hostages had been set at liberty. The presence of Amelia softened the remembrance of the vexations I had endured at Adrianople; the levity natural to youth, soon bore away all recollection of them; and the calm of domestic life for a moment smoothed the troubled ocean on which I had embarked. These halcyon days were, however, soon disturbed by the restlessness of ambition; a species of inquietude took possession of my mind, and its in-

fluence was daily augmented, even by that passion to which I owed all that was elevated in my character. I aspired to a crown, the expectation of which was the more precious to me, because I hoped to partake it with a wife that I adored; but I was still ignorant, whether my brave compatriots, who willingly recognized me as their chief, would consent to accept me as their sovereign. Anxious to ascertain what would be their sentiments in regard to this matter, I disclosed my inquietude and my wishes to Belleski, from the sincerity of whose attachment to me, I was convinced, that I might depend upon his discretion, even if he should disapprove my conduct. He warmly approved my design, and employing in my favour the influence which his talents and services had given him over the minds of the officers and soldiers, he insensibly gained the most important of them, and conducted with so much address, that on the day of my coronation, they thought they had the merit of offering me a rank

which it was no longer in their power to refuse me. I seconded with all my power, the efforts of Belleski; I gained the attachment of the soldiers by liberality, and still more by that affability so powerful among the vulgar, and which the great too often disdain to employ. Amelia, who was, like me, dazzled by the prospect of a crown, was equally assiduous to please; and was incessantly surrounded by a crowd of the most distinguished persons of both sexes, who were attracted by her condescension and sweetness of manner, and who seemed eager to anticipate her wishes.

Such appearances were calculated to seduce a sanguine youth, and repeatedly, I was tempted to venture on causing myself to be proclaimed. From this step, which must inevitably have utterly ruined me, had it failed of complete success, the faithful and prudent Belleski restrained me, by representing, that if the Hungarians were really inclined to favour my pretensions, there

could be little danger in a temporary delay ; that if, on the contrary, I should have deceived myself, the presence of the Ottoman army would encourage my friends and restrain the disaffected. To reasoning so convincing I had nothing to oppose.

A courier from the grand vizier, announced the arrival of his advanced guard at Essek, and brought me a letter requesting me immediately to join him there with all my force. He proposed, that I should be crowned at the head of the combined armies ; and, that as soon as the ceremony was over, we should march directly to Vienna, leaving the lake of Balaton to the right. My opinion and that of Belleski, were in opposition to this project of the vizier, and both were apprehensive that fatal consequences might result from it.* We ought to have kept the course of the Danube, and by the conquest of all the

* See Note 8.

fortified places between Gran and Vienna, have secured a retreat in the event of our discomfiture. As Mustapha persisted in his determination, we hesitated whether to adopt his plan, or to suffer him to make the attack alone, and to profit by his success, or operate a powerful diversion in case of disaster: This was undoubtedly a prudent arrangement; it was the counsel of Belleski, and what my judgment in secret approved; and had we adhered to it, we should probably have been victorious: But, my fatal ambition, my eagerness to enjoy supreme power, prevailed over prudence, reason, and the remonstrances of friendship, and I decided to effect the junction. The fatal error of this resolution can be excused only by the youth of him, who, aware of its danger, had not the fortitude to reject it.

I left Gran with a pomp truly regal; I was on horseback at the side of Amelia; we were surrounded by my aids,

magnificently accoutred. A part of my cavalry formed the advanced guard, and the rest followed us. The infantry, the magazines and the military chest, went down the Danube upon batteaux assembled above and below Buda. Drums, clarions, the artillery of the ramparts, the ringing of the bells, and the joyful acclamations of a numerous people, gave to our march a dignity and eclat which I have the weakness, even now, to recollect with pleasure. Alas! this vain glory, so seducing in appearance, is but a vapour which is dissipated at the sport of the wind.

In each of the places which I had taken, I left garrisons scarcely sufficient to protect them in case of a sudden attack; and when I arrived at Essek, I found, that my Hungarians amounted to thirty thousand men, well disciplined, and burning with desire to be engaged in defence of their violated rights. The grand vizier, who, though he did not consider himself responsible for a defeat,

owed to his master an exact account of his proceedings towards me, left his camp, and accompanied by a numerous escort came to receive me with the honours due to a Sovereign.

He was as much struck with the order and discipline of my troops, as my brave and simple Hungarians were with the Asiatic magnificence.

The two armies joined each other, and, for the first time, perhaps, the Christian bands had met the sons of Ottoman without hostility ; while the crescent and the cross, promiscuously intermingled, waved in the breeze in friendly union.

My generals, prompted by Belleski, dispersed themselves through the crowd, telling the Hungarian soldiers, that Hungary was indebted to me alone for the protection of the Porte ; that as the deliverer of my country, I alone was worthy to govern it. All minds were

penetrated with the elevation of enthusiasm; the soldiers raised me upon a shield in sight of both armies; and the acclamation so ardently desired—*Long live Tekeli, King of Hungary!* resounded through the multitude.

The vizier placed the crown upon my head, and swore to maintain my sovereignty by the power of the Ottoman arms. In fine, what I had not dared to undertake at Gran, was executed in a moment at Essek,* without the least opposition.

I withdrew to the pavilion prepared for me. Intoxicated with joy and pride, I sunk into the arms of Amelia, unable for a long time to utter a word. Her tears flowed upon my face; and her delight was equal to my own. Blinded, as we were, by the splendour of royalty, we were not sensible, that the being who charges himself with the destinies

* See Note T.

of a nation, is, of all men, the most worthy of commiseration, or the most devoid of sensibility. This day, which in our deluded imaginations, was the most glorious of our lives, was the last which was embellished by the phantoms of happiness. This day, I have expiated by forty years of calamities and sufferings. May my example be useful to the ambitious of every class and age!

Incapable, then, of such reflections as these, I thought of nothing but how I should direct to the greatest advantage, the most incontestible right to the throne, the unanimous confidence and unbounded attachment of the Hungarians. The duke of Lorrain had already stationed himself between Raab and Rabwitz, with the intention to cover the approaches to Vienna. The king of Poland, and the electors of Saxony and Bavaria, were on the march at the head of considerable reinforcements. It was possible for us to besiege and take the capital of Austria, before they

could effect their junction ; but there was not a moment to lose. I pressed Mustapha to action ; and again attempted to bring him to adopt a wiser and better combined plan of operations ; but my representations were useless ; I was obliged to submit, and leave all to those chances of war, which sometimes mock the most consummate prudence, and favour inexperience and temerity.

This multitude of soldiers, were, in fine, directed against Vienna ; but Mustapha's Ottoman pride disdained every species of precaution. From Essek to Vienna, leaving to the right the lake of Balaton, there were a number of towns which we might easily have carried as we passed. All these places the vizier avoided, and when I remonstrated against this conduct, he replied, that "these towns would, of course, fall, as soon as Vienna should be taken." I asked him, what resources he would have, if he should be defeated, and by what route he would retreat into Tur-

key? "Those," replied he, "who are afraid may retire." "We shall see," I answered, "which of us two, will best perform his duty." I tore my plans in pieces, and thought of nothing but taking the capital of Austria, or of perishing under its walls.*

We arrived there on the 13th July, 1683. Leopold had been so dismayed by the number and rapidity of my conquests, that he had withdrawn his protection from the cities of the mountains, all of which had consequently declared in my favour. The report of the innumerable host with which we now menaced Austria, had spread inexpressible consternation, which had been augmented by the precipitate flight of Leopold, who, on the 7th, had quitted Vienna, and made the empress and his whole family the companions of his flight. Alas! how soon were the causes of their terror to fly in their turn, before

* See Note U.

enemies to whom victory was basely yielded!

On the 16th we opened the trenches before Vienna. The garrison left there, amounted to no more than eight thousand effective men; and Count Starembergh, who commanded, had been obliged to arm the citizens, who had not followed the Emperor's example of flight; he had embodied even the scholars of the university: But these levies, though for a short time sustained by enthusiasm, being entirely undisciplined, are more likely to carry disorder into a body of veterans than to give them any efficient aid. The place was in want of provisions; its fortifications were in ruins; and it was not probable that it could long withstand our attack. These reasons, joined to the avarice of the vizier, determined him to lay regular siege to it, though the rapid approach of the allied princes rendered it indispensable for him to carry it by storm. Three hundred and thirty thousand

men might so have multiplied the points of attack, that the enemy could not possibly have defended themselves on every side ; but Mustapha imagining, that the residence of the Emperors must be the seat of immense treasures, was fearful that they might be pillaged during the confusion of an assault. He was stupid enough to think, that Leopold, who had abandoned his capital, six days before it was invested, had left his treasures at the mercy of the enemy whom he durst not meet ; and though there were large breaches in the walls, and the garrison were in absolute want of every thing, he refused to give the orders for an assault which must have been successful. I threatened him with the displeasure of his master, and excited an insurrection among his janissaries. Both were ineffectual ; he contemned my menaces ; his troops he appeased with money.— These haughty soldiers soon fell into absolute discouragement ; the service was neglected ; none but the Hungarians were ready to fight.

Sensible of the importance of putting troops in action while they are ardent to be engaged, I assembled my Hungarians; I told them that the avarice and sloth of the vizier would prevent his taking Vienna; but that we were capable of effecting the reduction of it; and I concluded with proposing, that we should make the attack, and have the whole glory of an enterprize which could not fail of success. An unanimous shout expressed the alacrity with which they would second me; and I made the dispositions for a general assault.

The vizier, in the utmost consternation, came in his turn, to expostulate; indignant at his cowardice and enraged by his obstinacy, I told him, that if he did not instantly retire, I would charge his army; beat them, and afterwards take the city, without any other assistance than despair which renders us capable of undertaking every thing, and valour which ensures success to the most desperate enterprizes. Excessively ex-

asperated, he went to complain to his janissaries, who, losing with their respect for him, their subordination as soldiers, seemed to favour my attempt. I marched with the sanguine presentiment of success, and was approaching the advanced works, when the army of the allies appeared on the summit of Mount Calembergh, near the city. Had the Turkish army appeared determined for the combat, I should have followed my design ; and should have taken Vienna during the battle ; but I saw terror in every face, and was convinced, that my Hungarians would be obliged to sustain the shock of the Imperialists alone.

I made a retrograde movement, and ranged my troops in such order of battle that we might act alone ; I flew from rank to rank to see that every man was at his post. I had no apprehension that the first onset of the Imperialists would be directed against me, as that would have exposed them to the danger

of being surrounded and cut to pieces by the Turks, who were very superior in number. I calculated that the first attack would be made on the main body of the army, and judged, that if the Turks only firmly sustained the shock for an hour, I might take the enemy in flank, and by this movement decide the victory.

The moment before the engagement commenced, Belleski came to take my last orders : I charged him to conduct Amelia to a corps de reserve which I formed, consisting of two thousand chosen cavalry ; to confide her to the care of a faithful officer, and then to re-join me.

The battle must, we were sensible, be decisive. If we were victorious, the faults of the vizier were repaired, Vienna would open its gates, and the hereditary dominions of the house of Austria would become the prey of the victors. I harangued my Hungarians, and found

that the same thirst of glory and of vengeance by which I was consumed, was burning in every heart.

The Imperialists, as I had foreseen, fell upon the centre of the Ottoman troops.

The Turks commonly attack with an impetuosity which nothing can resist; but they do not possess that cool and determined courage necessary to troops who wait in their entrenchments the attack of the enemy. At the first discharge, the janissaries shamefully fled, and their example was followed by the whole Turkish army. This disorderly multitude, flying in every direction, threw themselves into the midst of my battalions, broke and dispersed them. I made incredible efforts to rally them. Now, in the midst of the Hungarians, then among the Turks; a moment after, surrounded by the Imperialists; I promised, threatened and fought. I was seconded by none, save Belleski, and a

small but gallant band of veterans ; yet the enemy, astonished at our fury, opened before us, and if the Turks, instead of carrying disorder every where, had fled from the field of battle, my troops would have rallied, and we should long and severely have disputed the honour of the day ; but they took refuge at the side of my Hungarians, and rendered it impossible for them to undertake any thing.

After having for a long time, uselessly lavished the blood of my gallant band, I was obliged to resolve on flight ; this was a frightful extremity. Repeatedly, I was tempted to terminate an existence I detested ; the recollection of Amelia, and the hope of being a father, drew me back to life. Alas ! little did I then think, that my wife and child were irrevocably lost to me ; that I was never again to behold the mother, nor ever to embrace the unfortunate child, born under such mournful auspices.

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We spurred our horses through the combattants, the smoke, the dying and the dead ; fought ten different battles, before we escaped from the scene of slaughter, and arrived, at last, on the borders of the Danube. We crossed, and leaving the river between the enemy and us, marched night and day, with no hope but that of reaching Gran or Buda, and re-assembling the wrecks of this mighty army.*

After three days' unintermitted march we arrived before Buda ; and though the report of our defeat had outstripped us, the gates were opened to us: Hence I concluded, that I still had friends ; I despaired not of fortune ; my hopes revived ; and at the height of this disaster, my only fear was for my Amelia.

The officer to whom Belleski had confided her, sensible that his diligence

* See Note V.

might save my wife, the corps de reserve, and part of the equipages, had withdrawn with his troop and sixty baggage waggons, just as the janissaries began to give way.

My unfortunate wife called aloud for me, interrogated the fugitives, and was unwilling to withdraw from the field of battle.

In spite of her remonstrances, she was placed in a wretched calash which they met by chance. They crossed the Danube above Mansvert, and entered into Upper Hungary, where no party of the enemy had yet penetrated. The escort of Amelia was joined by a considerable number of Hungarians, who carried off the provisions from the places through which they passed, in order to prevent the Imperialists profiting by them; and advanced with all diligence towards *Montgatz*, a strong fortress, situated on a craggy and inaccessible rock. The rapidity of the march, the deplorable state

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of our affairs, and above all, the fear, that I had perished in the battle, accelerated that moment so cruel in such circumstances. The feeble, the delicate Amelia, was constrained to stop at a miserable hamlet, where reclined upon a little straw, she gave birth to a son.— Oh! ill-starred offspring of calamity! never did thy unfortunate mother clasp to her bosom the husband of her soul, and in the exulting throb of maternal fondness, present her child! Never did thy infant lips respond to my parental pressure! Immured in the gloomy confines of a prison, a prey to hunger, wretchedness and despair, mother and child died the victims of the tyrant's vengeance!

Amelia, at last, arrived at Montgatz, with about five thousand men, and an immense convoy of munitions of war. The waggon on which I had placed the military chest, was among the number of those they had saved. This was a precious resource to sustain the affection .

of those who were attached to us, and to bribe the services of the indifferent. Amelia's health being re-established, she assumed the cuirass, and vowed to bury herself under the fragments of her rock, rather than betray her country, her glory, or her love.

The packet which enclosed these details was committed to a faithful soldier, who by means of disguising himself, passed through various detachments of the enemy, and delivered it in safety.

The Turks, though beaten and dispersed before Vienna, had re-united in various places, and still kept the field. Kara Mehemet, the bravest and most intelligent of their officers, having learned that I was at Buda, hastened to join me. He arrived with six thousand men, forty pieces of artillery, and an hundred and fifty baggage waggons. Sincerely esteeming this brave man, I received him as one worthy to conquer or perish with me.

As soon as we had established a certain order in the city, we resolved on sending an express to Constantinople, and demanding justice on the vizier.— No one was more fit for so delicate a mission than Belleski, whom we accordingly agreed, should undertake it. I transmitted to his highness, a memorial, which Mehemet durst not sign; and charged our envoy with private letters for the kishlar aga and the favourite.— We separated with tears in our eyes, mutually oppressed with a presentiment that we embraced for the last time.

Leopold determined to profit by the success of his arms, gave no remission to the vanquished; the Duke of Lorraine received orders to attack the Turks at all points, and to effect the subjugation of Hungary. This skillful general entered this unfortunate country, ravaged in turn by the victors and the vanquished. The weakest towns surrendered at the first summons. The taking of Buda, would, he judged, terminate

the war; he disposed himself to lay siege to it, and began by attacking and re-taking Gran, which was defended by only fifteen hundred men. He then marched against Wissegrade, a fortress, situated between Gran and Buda, and of no consequence, except to maintain the communication between the two places.

Sensible that I had need of all my forces to keep the field against a victorious army, I had left in Wissegrade only a small detachment of janissaries. This handful of men had the courage to make a sortie, in which they at first had the advantage over the Imperialists; but their ardour soon cooling, they were pressed in their turn, and the next day demanded to capitulate.* The duke was now master of all the neighbouring cities and had no subject of anxiety but the siege of Buda; except, that he was desirous of making me his

* See Note W.

prisoner, as Leopold would have been highly gratified by my falling into his hands. Pardon, my dear friends, the continual egotism of my narration; I am now sixty-six years old, I was then eighteen; and, I repeat it, I have so little resemblance to my former self, whatever my achievements, the remembrance of them is so weakened by time, that I can recall it without the least emotion of vanity.

The first columns were already in sight of Buda, when the duke learned that twenty thousand Turks had assembled under Weitzen, near the isle of St. Andre. This corps might disturb him during the seige, and he, as cautious as the grand vizier was imprudent, determined to disperse them before he opened the entrenchments. He made the attack and completely routed them. Part of them rallied and entrenched themselves in the isle of St. Andre, which is formed by the Danube. Two considerable columns were approaching

to reinforce them. The duke took a position that enabled him to prevent their junction; and put it in his power to defeat them, separately. Observing this, I left my station, and by making an attack on the Imperialists, and then retreating, I amused and drew them from the isle, and thirty thousand Turks immediately threw themselves into it.

As they were more completely defended by the Danube, than they could have been by the best entrenchments, it was doubtful whether the duke would attempt to force them; and it was not at all probable, that he would venture to commence the siege while they held a position from whence they could harass him continually, and thwart him in every manoeuvre.

By a fatality which seems to attend the Ottoman arms, a misunderstanding took place among the officers of this army; in consequence of which, they evacuated the isle and encamped under

the walls of Buda. The duke instantly took the position which they had had the folly to abandon, and attacked them in that they had made choice of. I protected them with all the artillery of the place, while they, for the first time, fought like brave men; three times broken, they returned to the charge.—My garrison was my sole resource, of course, I was averse to expose a man uselessly; but when I saw the Turks warmly contesting the victory, I prepared to second them, and was sallying forth with my whole force, when one of the most accomplished generals that ever existed, *Prince Eugene*, then holding only the rank of colonel, by a manoeuvre, evincing the superiority of his genius, and which laid the foundation of his vast and brilliant reputation, changed the fortune of the day. In a moment, the rout became general—the Imperialists had nothing to do but to destroy enemies abandoned to confusion, dismay and slaughter.*

* See Note X.

Twelve thousand of these unfortunate men had escaped and retired to a place half a league distant from Buda; the duke gave them no time to respire, but attacked and entirely dispersed them. He then opened his entrenchments. I suffered the works to go on for several days; and when the duke was ready to establish his batteries, I sallied out, and attacked him with so much spirit, that I drove him to a powder-mill at a considerable distance. As I re-entered Buda, I spiked part of his artillery and filled up all the works.

Charles of Lorrain was not easily discouraged; but my vigilance was equal to his activity. I harrassed and weakened him by sorties as sanguinary as they were frequent. The Turks we had with us, animated by the example of Mehemet, and emulous of the determined valour of my Hungarians, fought like desperadoes. We lost but few men, though every combat cost many lives to the Imperialists.

The duke, outrageous at seeing his reputation likely to be shaken, ordered a general assault, and assumed the command in person. The engagement lasted five hours, and produced on both sides the most horrible carnage. We fought man to man in the trenches, upon the ramparts, even in the streets, into which some battalions had penetrated. Our courage, stimulated to fury, at last prevailed over the numbers of our enemies, and over the consummate skill of their valiant commander. His troops, every where broken, were obliged to retreat with frightful loss. We pursued, dispersed them ; resumed our posts, and the second time, filled up the entrenchments.

The next day, the Elector of Bavaria brought the besiegers a reinforcement of twelve thousand men ; the works recommenced, and we again destroyed them. Twenty assaults were made on the advanced batteries, and our Turks,

who had become heroes, every where repulsed the assailants.

The Duke of Lorrain, after having uselessly sacrificed thirty thousand men under our walls, determined, at last, to raise the siege;* and the affront which the crescent had received at Vienna was effaced before Buda. A messenger was secretly despatched to carry this joyful news to Amelia, to whom I recommended her country and her son.

Winter now approached; the Imperial army, which was sensibly diminished by a cruel epidemic, began to enter winter-quarters. We had a respite from the fatigues we had endured, and the turmoils in which we had been so long engaged; our party was re-animated, and we had conceived the hope of opening the campaign by some brilliant exploit, when the most unfortunate and most unexpected event, plunged me in irretrievable ruin.

* See Note X.

Belleski, in concert with the kishlar aga, had used every effort to ruin the vizier in the opinion of his master. He had torn from me the opportunity of victory, and had debased the Ottoman grandeur; but I was less anxious to gratify my love of vengeance, by injuring him, than to deprive him of the command, and vest it in Mehemet, who, being every way worthy of it, might, during the ensuing campaign, re-establish our disordered affairs.

Mustapha, who feared my credit at the Porte, or who, probably, had received some intimation of what was plotting against him, determined to anticipate me. As soon as the campaign was terminated, he departed for Constantinople, and had the effrontery to accuse me of having held intelligence with Leopold, and facilitated his success. The accusation was an evident absurdity. A simple recital of my actions was sufficient to prove it so; but the mystery which shrouds the most

trifling proceedings of the seraglio, prevented Belleski's receiving the least intimation of the blow that was determined against me, till it was too late to avert it; too late to arrest its fatal effects.

Mahomet gave credit to the insinuations of his vizier; yet, through the most astonishing of contradictions, he was the first victim of his master's vengeance. Mustapha was strangled;* his successor received orders to assume the command of the Turkish armies; to arrest me, and send me to Constantinople.

This last was a command not easy to be executed. I was equally beloved by the Turks and Hungarians, who, far from aiming any blow at my liberty, would have spilt their blood in my defence. The vizier sounded the dispositions of the army in regard to me, and became sensible that it was impossible

* See Note Z.

for him to make himself master of my person but by stratagem.*

He began by changing the garrison of Buda. This he effected under various pretexts, sufficiently specious to prevent my being either alarmed or offended by it. He carried his hypocrisy so far, as to flatter my vanity, by insinuating, that he wished the several corps of the army to pass alternately under my orders, that they might learn the art of war. Thus deceived, I saw, without the least suspicion, but with the most lively regret, the departure of Mehemet and his brave janissaries.

They were replaced by others entirely devoted to the vizier. Had I been capable of imagining conduct so base as his, the cold and reserved air of the new garrison, and a certain affectation and constraint visible in their manner, would have been sufficient to warn me

* See Note A. A.

of the vizier's treachery ; but I was entirely without mistrust. It is doubtful whether he could have executed his infamous design, if I had had the slightest intimation of it ; although I had only a small number of Hungarians, they were determined, and the new garrison was far from being warlike. I might have forced my way through them, sword in hand, and sought an asylum in Transylvania.

To effect his purpose of getting me in his power, the vizier took measures as extensive as would have been necessary to conquer or to defend a province. When he at length thought himself sure of his object, he announced, that it was his intention to celebrate the raising of the siege, and to give a brilliant entertainment to the hero who had saved the place. At this entertainment, he spared nothing which could gratify my pride, excite my curiosity, or flatter my taste ; and I enjoyed in perfect security, homage which I believed to be sincere,

and of which I thought myself worthy.

Meanwhile, my Hungarians had been allured away in small bands, and inveigled; by detachments of Turks, into different quarters of the city. Whole battalions of these perfidious wretches, occupied the intervals between them, thus rendering it impossible for them to unite in case of alarm. Nor did their baseness stop here—my brave soldiers were enticed to drink, and during their intoxication, disarmed.

I was seated at the side of the vizier, who appeared thoughtful, and sometimes absent. His eyes were frequently turned to my sabre; the hilt of which being richly ornamented, I supposed it was that which fixed his attention, and conceived no alarm. He at last, begged me to permit him to examine it more closely; I detached, and was going to present it to him, when I remarked, that he alternately blushed and turned pale,

and that the hand which he extended, was agitated by a visible tremor. I looked steadily at him; he cast down his eyes; I then rose, and drew back some steps, he also rose, and drew his scimitar; at this signal, all the guests followed his example. The vizier then told me, that he arrested me by order of the Grand Signior. To this I answered, only by putting myself in a posture of defence. He had not received orders to kill me in case of resistance, and appeared embarrassed by my attitude of defiance. I called aloud on my Hungarians, but was heard by no more than four or five of them, officers who were in an adjoining apartment, and instantly appeared: As full of indignation as surprise at the treachery of the vizier, they ranged themselves around me. I have always thought that a soldier ought not to count his enemies, and did not hesitate to attack mine. I stood facing the vizier, whom I should have extended at my feet, had not a janissary thrown himself between him and the

blow which was aimed at him. Instantly, this crowd of dastardly traitors closed round us; the floor and furniture were stained with blood; that of my friends flowed, but as their wounds were slight, and they continued to fight with fury, our enemies stole away and sought an assylum in the adjoining chambers. Soon, however, returning in greater numbers, they attacked us with new rage. I thought I observed, that they spared me, and attempted the lives of my brave companions only; forgetting myself, in my anxiety to save them, I pushed them into a corner, and for a long time, obstinately and successfully defended them. Though nearly exhausted, I resolved to make a last effort to drive the Turks from the hall, and then to jump with my friends through a window, which was not more than ten feet from the ground, in the hope, that the combat being renewed in the street, the tumult would collect my troops, and we should be victorious. Indignation, rage and despair, rendered me

truly formidable, and I charged the Turks with renovated vigour; they, affrighted, no longer attempted to defend themselves, but fell dead and dying at my feet. I was near the execution of my design, when the blade of my sabre broke into shivers. The Turks now closed round me. I had only a short fragment of my sword which was insufficient for defence, and I threw it away, to avoid the shame and grief of surrendering it.

As soon as I was seized and secured, the vizier had the baseness to order me to be chained and hand-cuffed; and the barbarity to cause me to pass before the bodies of my friends who had died in defending me. This spectacle affected me, even more sensibly than my own disgrace. I shut my eyes, and a profound heaviness of soul succeeded that rage which had sustained me and given me supernatural strength. I was placed in a covered litter, and guarded by a

numerous detachment, taken from the city.

I suffered much during the route. I was never permitted to leave the litter; my irons were insupportably galling; but I could not obtain liberty to have them taken off, not even while I took my miserable repasts. The officer who commanded the escort, obstinately refused to answer my questions, or to inform me of any of the motives which had influenced the vizier to commit this outrage. All I could learn, was, that they were taking me to Constantinople.

I arrived there in a state of violent exasperation at the treatment I had received. The energy of my character had surmounted the despondency in which I had for several days been buried.

I was thrown into a dungeon, in the gloomy solitude of which I revolved in

my mind a thousand projects by means of which I hoped at once to avenge myself on the Grand Signior, and re-establish myself on the throne. Vain projects! Neither vengeance nor empire were for me. My enemies triumphed over me, and what I more deeply deplore, they triumphed over my country.

Belleski had never heard of my arrest, till he learned that I was confined in the castle of the Seven Towers.—Desperate at an event which prostrated our fortunes and our country, he more than ever attached himself to the kislar aga, and exhausted his resources to render him favourable to me. The aga received his presents, but made no effort to serve him. Mustapha was no more, and Belleski easily divined, that the hatred which this officer bore the vizier, more than the interest he took in my designs, had influenced him in his former exertions in my favour. This faithful friend was, nevertheless, not discour-

raged. After a thousand useless attempts, his letters reached the hands of the favourite. He complained bitterly of the shameful treatment I received; he claimed for me the prerogatives attached to a title, which the sultan himself had conferred on me, but which he now violated by treating me as a criminal; he demanded that the process against me should be explained; and that I should know of what I was accused; he supplicated the sultana to be my defender, and to obtain from his highness some mitigation of my fate. In fine, he painted to her, that young man, on whom she had once condescended to look favourably, plunged in an infected dungeon; abandoned to all the horrors of misery and disgrace; and he closed, by reminding her, that no person on earth, except herself, had the power united to the inclination to soften so rigorous a fate.

She was a woman; she possessed sensibility; and she had been interested

by my appearance, as I have mentioned; but the passions of Mahomet were violent, his temper ferocious, and it was dangerous for any one to attempt any thing in my favour till his resentment had subsided.

Acquainted with her lord's disposition, the favourite durst not, at first, even mention my name to him; but she did not entirely abandon me. A slave secretly remitted to Belleski, a box, containing several valuable gems, and a slip of paper, on which were written these words—“ *I will act when it shall be prudent.*”

As the heads of both would have been in danger, if this correspondence had been discovered, the favourite refused to receive several letters which Belleski afterwards addressed to her, and he ceased to write.

He made use of her bounty to render my condition more supportable. The

diamonds of the seraglio were offered to the governour of the castle ; few Turks are incorruptible ; the governour was not so ; and after two months of the most rigid captivity, I was removed into a small chamber, where I was indulged with the necessaries of life.

This change, which would have been so welcome under other circumstances, added to the dark despair that began to consume my existence. In the favours granted me, I saw nothing consoling ; they seemed only to indicate the determination of perpetuating my detention. My country, my crown, the fruit of my victories, my wife, my son, and even hope itself, seemed irrevocably lost to me. " This," cried I, " this is the termination of my blissful visions ! these walls alone, must witness my expiring agonies ! my wife ! my Amelia ! " My fortitude entirely abandoned me, and I wept in all the bitterness of hopeless, unutterable sorrow. To these tears, the first which wretchedness had wrung

from me, succeeded fits of rage that rose to madness. I snatched a knife that lay near me, plunged it into my breast, and fell senseless on the floor.

I know not how long I remained in this condition, nor what passed around me during the long and dangerous malady with which I was attacked. When I recovered the use of my reason, I perceived that the chamber in which I lay, was not that which I had before occupied; the furniture was entirely different, an old female slave was sitting near my bed, apparently interested in my fate. I looked about with astonishment, tried to collect my ideas, and at last, demanded to know the place of my confinement. The slave answered, that I was in banishment at Rhodes; and that the Turkish captain, on board of whose vessel I had been placed, had put me under the guard of the bashaw, who commanded in the island. After these first explanations, she gave me a letter, the superscription of which, I in-

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stantly recognized to be in the hand of the faithful Belleski; and you may judge with what eagerness I perused it.

It began with an account of his proceedings with the aga and the favourite. He added, that having been rejected by the one and feebly seconded by the other, he had addressed the sultan himself, and had chosen the time of his highness' going to the mosque, to present to him successively, a number of petitions. Several of those, first presented, had produced no effect, and he had begun to be discouraged; but the governour of the Seven Towers, with whom he preserved some relation, having informed him of the desperate condition in which I lay, he no longer listened to any consideration but that of his zeal and affection; he resolved to hazard every thing; and presented to the Sultan a last memorial, conceived in such strong terms, that had it failed in its beneficial result in my favour, must

have ensured his own perdition. The effect of it was immediate; the next day, an order was issued, that I should be removed to Rhodes. The governour was to be responsible for me, but I was to enjoy a degree of liberty and a considerable pension. At the close of this detail, Belleski announced his approaching departure for Hungary. He finished by giving me information, at once dissatisfactory and yet pleasing in the extreme.

From the commencement of this campaign, the Emperor, persuaded, that my disgrace had left Amelia without resource, had flattered himself, that a woman of nineteen, abandoned to herself, would be easily intimidated. He ordered Count Caprara to approach Montgatz, and to lavish threats and promises to induce a surrender. Amelia answered the Emperor's messenger, that I had become more dear to her by my misfortunes; that she wished to owe nothing to Leopold; and, that she would

defend her fortress to the last extremity. The Hungarian nobles, far from imitating this generous devotion, accepted an amnesty; and our different corps dissatisfied with the Turks, dispersed, without leaders, and led away by the force of example, almost all united themselves to the Imperial army.* This defection made no change in the resolution of my wife, and she continued to resist the attacks of Caprara.

This old general, continually repulsed, and sometimes beaten, by a woman, had, at last, been convinced, that a place so strong, could not be taken by regular siege. He, therefore, determined to blockade it, and wait until famine should compel Amelia to capitulate.

The heroic conduct of my wife, affected me, even to tears, and I would have given the empire of the world to have pressed her one moment in my

* See Note B. B.

arms. I had passed suddenly from the most dismal situation, to the enjoyment of comparative ease. The affluence which I enjoyed, the friendship of the bashaw ; the consideration of the principal inhabitants of the island, might have contributed to my felicity. I should, perhaps, have felt the value of this tranquil retirement, had I not been a husband and a father ; but Amelia in the midst of our enemies, contemning the offers of Leopold, and braving his hostile endeavours ;—Amelia whom I idolized, and whom the danger by which she was menaced, joined to the torments of absence, rendered lovelier than ever to my imagination ; the thought of this tender and heroic wife, made the idle and obscure life I led, insupportable to me. I determined to attempt escaping, that I might join my wife and save her, or die by her side.

Though constantly watched, I was permitted to go about the city, but the avenues to the port were strictly pro-

hibited, and there was no means for me to escape, unless I could bribe the captain of some vessel.

As it was impossible for me to act for myself, I was obliged to choose a confident; accordingly, after some days' hesitation, I cast my eyes upon one of my slaves, in whom I had observed considerable address, and whom I imagined I had attached to me by liberality, before I had any views upon him. This wretch was born for baseness; he deceived my confidence and betrayed me to the bashaw; in consequence of which, I was imprisoned in my house, where I spent two whole years, a prey to all the violence of passion; alternately the sport of the deceitful illusions of hope, or writhing under the tortures of despair.

The Turks, meanwhile, had suffered continual reverses ever since I had been arrested. Buda had been a second time invested, and taken by assault, after a

most sanguinary siege.* Almost all the towns we had captured, surrendered at discretion to the Imperialists, who had gained the battle of Hersan, taken Essek, and entered Bosnia. Mahomet had not been more fortunate against the Venetians, Morosini having conquered the Peloponessus.†

Abaffi, intimidated by the rapid progress of the Imperial arms, trembled for his own dominions. The Emperor, master of two-thirds of Hungary, had it in his power to enter Transylvania, and punish this prince for having assisted the malcontents. The Turks, every where unsuccessful, appeared to him less formidable than Leopold, and he treated with the Emperor.

The Grand Signior then became sensible, how great a fault had been committed in the outrages I had received. The troops had been subsisted through

* See Note C. c.

† See Note D. d.

my means ; my Hungarians alone had been successful ; and the vizier was without resources in a re-conquered country. To warlike troops, flushed with victory, he could oppose none but men accustomed to fly at the first onset. It had even become uncertain, whether he would be able to effect a retreat through Transylvania. The divan were of opinion, that my presence alone could retrieve what had been lost, and my recall was decided.*

All my thoughts, all my wishes flew incessantly to Montgatz. I was profoundly meditating on the means to attempt a second time to escape, when I was aroused by an extraordinary noise at my door. I opened it. What was my astonishment when I beheld the bashaw, and learned the reason of his visit. He had come to re-establish me in my rank, and to announce his highness' intention, that I should immediately em-

* See Note E. E.

Bark for Constantinople, from whence I should depart for the army. Inflamed with indignation against the Porte, I was tempted to refuse the proffered command; but the interest of my wife and son, prevailed over my resentment: Perhaps the seducing charm of power and grandeur had some share in producing the facility with which I yielded. Be that as it might, I complied; entered into the views of the Grand Signior; and departed, to expose myself anew to proscription; to the hazards of war and the ingratitude of the Porte.

Sensible of the importance of harmony among the chiefs of an army, I determined not to embroil myself with Ibrahim, the present vizier, as I had done with Mustapha his predecessor. I therefore accosted him with all the respect due to the first officer of a vast empire; to these salutations, he replied in the true spirit of a courtier. I took my leave, in order to go and raise troops in Hungary, and we separated,

apparently highly pleased with each other.

I issued a number of manifestoes, calculated to revive the hatred and reanimate the courage of the Hungarians. I had the grief and mortification to find, that they produced but little effect.— This unfortunate people had suffered so much from both the Imperialists and the Turks, and my resources appeared so uncertain, that after much difficulty and intrigue, I collected only seven or eight thousand men who were willing to take up arms again. With means so feeble I could undertake nothing.

Amelia, meanwhile, persevered in defending her fortress. Caraffa, the son of that traitor, whom I have before mentioned, who so basely violated the rights of hospitality, then commanded the blockade in which he had gained no advantage. The garrison were taught by my wife, to whom they were devoted, to consider nothing impossible. Belleski

advancing at the head of several battalions, and a considerable convoy, had the good fortune to beat Caraffa, and to enter Montgatz with a supply that put the garrison in a situation to resist, for a long time, the whole force of the empire.

This news, which soon reached me, brought back calm to my soul. I was tranquil respecting my own fate, when I had no fear for Amelia; and I entrenched under the cannon of Grand Waradin. I cherished the hope, that my little army would insensibly increase, by means of which I might penetrate into Upper Hungary, deliver Montgatz, and operate a powerful diversion in that quarter, while the Turks should occupy the Imperialists on the borders of the Danube. Vain projects of imagination! Delusive chimeras of hope! How often has my heart, sick of disappointment, welcomed you as the harbingers of bliss—and how often have ye deceived and mocked my confidence

in your promises! My army never exceeded ten thousand men. I had no longer money to pay the troops, and was obliged to put myself under the pay of the Grand Signior. The Emperor, master of almost all Hungary, caused his son, the Archduke Joseph, to be declared king of that ill-fated country.* This ceremony, suggested by the soundest policy, was performed at Presburgh, the capital of that kingdom. The pomp which was affected on this occasion, drew thither all the nobility whom they gained by presents or by promises.— From that time my party was entirely prostrate; and I became merely a simple officer of the Porte. I lost all consideration, for men soon cease to regard those from whom nothing more is to be feared or expected.

To those disadvantages I opposed the obstinate courage which had never abandoned me. I was in every place

* See Note F. r.

where danger was to be encountered and glory acquired. My little corps lost no opportunity of signalizing its valour, and the change which took place at the Porte, for a moment, revived my hopes.

The continual misfortunes which had befallen Mahomet IV. had alienated the minds of the nation, and the janissaries, attributing all these calamities to his indolence, resolved to depose him. The caimacan, or governor of Constantinople, Mustapha Kuprogli, scherif of the mosque of Sancta Sophia, and the nakif, or guard of the standard of Mahomet, waited on the Sultan to inform him that it was the will of the nation he should descend from the throne. Soliman his brother, was taken from the prison in which he had been forty years immured, and Mahomet shut up in the interior of the seraglio.

The Grand Vizier was beheaded, and Mustapha Kuprogli succeeded him in

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this dangerous employment. This revolution, which in a christian, or rather, in a free state, would have cost rivers of blood, was effected with as little disturbance as some domestic affair.*

The new Sultan, for form's sake, made some propositions of peace to the Emperor. They were such as he† could not accept without disgracing himself, and both parties prepared to continue the war.

Soliman, either thinking that his presence would animate his troops, or wishing to impress his subjects with a high idea of his personal courage, assumed the command of the columns assembled on the coasts of the Bosphorus, and joined the numerous, but disheartened corps, which yet remained of the flourishing army sent by his predecessor into Hungary.‡

* See Note G. o. † See Note H. n. ‡ See Note I. r.

The Imperial army, then commanded by the elector of Bavaria, were preparing to pass the Danube, with the intention to form the siege of Belgrade. This important place, the key of European Turkey, could not be saved without a most brilliant achievement.—Jeghen, the bashaw, presented himself with the utmost intrepidity, and determined to dispute the victory, plunged into the river followed by all his cavalry. Eugene, whose very name was formidable, was then lieutenant-general. At the head of ten or twelve squadrons, he advanced up the river, intending to force the passage and attack Jeghen in the rear, calculating by this manoeuvre to decide the defeat of the Turks. In this was displayed the skill of a general; Jeghen was obliged to fight Eugene, or suffer Belgrade to be besieged. At the head of my Hungarian cavalry, I hastened to reinforce him. Eugene had nearly crossed the river, when we precipitated ourselves into the waves. I had the honour of personally combatting

this astonishing man, to whom the ostentatious Louis XIV. had refused a regiment, and during the rest of his life, deplored that want of penetration which had failed to divine a hero.

Attacking Eugene, I disclosed my name. Victor or vanquished, I determined to acquire claims to his esteem, for I considered the esteem of Eugene worth a victory. He made me no answer, but put himself on the defensive. Both perfectly mounted, both in the vigour of manhood; equals in address, and perhaps, in valour—victory was for some time uncertain. Eugene, at last, aimed at me so many blows, in such rapid succession, that I parried them with much difficulty. In this situation, owing to some inequalities in the bottom of the river, my horse faltered, and the rapidity of the current occasioned him to fall. The generous Eugene, perceiving this advantage, suspended the blow which might have been fatal to me, and I feel pleasure in acknowledg-

ing, that I owe my life to his magnanimity.

I remounted—we charged the Imperialists—trampled them one upon the other, and I, in my turn, was near executing a project similar to that which Eugene had conceived, by passing the river and taking the elector of Bavaria in flank, when a ball from a carabine wounded and dismounted me. I fell, was borne away by the current, and ready to perish, when some gentlemen of my suite risked their lives to save me. I was carried to the shore from whence we departed, and from thence to Soliman's quarters.

When the troops ceased to be animated by my presence and example, the fortune of the day changed; every thing yielded to the skill and valour of Eugene, who passed the Danube and routed Jeghen; in consequence of which, three days afterwards, the elector opened the entrenchments before Belgrade.

My wound brought on a fever, which so entirely prostrated me, that I was for several days as incapable of giving counsel as I was of acting. When I at length recovered the use of my intellectual faculties, the first question I asked, was in relation to the armies. I was informed, that Belgrade had been carried by assault, the garrison put to the sword, and that the victims of slaughter had found a shroud and a tomb in the bloody waves of the Danube.*

Another disaster of which I was informed, still more sensibly afflicted me. Prince Lewis of Baden had entered Bosnia, and had defeated a considerable corps commanded by Mehemet my rival and friend, who had been my companion in the defence of Buda. This man, worthy of a better fate, had, during the confusion of battle, been surrounded by ten German hussars who summoned him to surrender; courageously defend-

* See Note E. x.

ing himself, he killed two of the number, and would probably have escaped, had he not received a pistol-ball in the head; he fell from his horse, and his assailants, perceiving that he was not dead, attempted to make him their prisoner; rising on his knees, he drew his poignard and wounded mortally the first who approached him; though unable to stand, he for some time kept the rest at a distance, till enraged at his obstinacy, they rushed upon him and quickly dispatched him. Thus perished, sword in hand, all who had been attached to my person as well as my cause. I have miserably survived them all.

To this series of disasters was added the most terrible blow that could have assailed me. Amelia had exhausted her ammunition and provisions; famine was sensibly felt in her fortress, and they were in absolute want of every munition. No alternative remained. If they could not plunder what they were in want of, in the camp of the Imperialists,

they must surrender. The wife of Tekeli could not hesitate—she made a terrible sortie—Caraffa at first retreated, but his troops, ashamed of flying before a woman, rallied, and repulsed the assailants. Belleski fell at the side of Amelia, who, after prodigies of valour, re-entered Montgatz with the loss of two thousand men. She held out eight days longer, a prey to the horrors of famine, and without any means of defence, except pieces of the rock which they rolled down upon the enemy's battalions. The sight of her son, fainting of famine before her eyes, extinguished every sentiment of glory and of vengeance. In the agony of maternal solicitude, she forgot her husband, and demanded to capitulate. Who could condemn a mother under such circumstances as wanting heroism?

She exacted, that I should be comprised in the capitulation. She knew, indeed, that I detested Leopold; but she judged, and rightly judged, that the

satisfaction of embracing my wife and son, after five years most painful separation, might have reconciled me to any thing. Had Caraffa consulted the true interests of his master, he would have granted her request; by detaching me from the Turks, he would have assured to him the peaceable possession of Hungary, besides preserving twenty thousand subjects who perished during the course of this war; but he insisted on a surrender at discretion. The unfortunate Amelia was at last subdued by the tears of her son, and the reiterated entreaties of the famishing garrison.— She opened her gates, and was conducted in triumph to Vienna, where, without regard to her youth, her beauty, or her valour, she was thrown into a prison, in which grief and want terminated her days and those of her suffering child.*

My health was just beginning to be re-established when I received this fatal

* See Note L. L.

intelligence. The effect it produced was terrible. I was seized with a violent fever and delirium, and incessantly made attempts on my life; but my friends had, what I thought, the barbarity to save me from myself. What need had I of life? My country sunk under the yoke of its oppressors—my friends, my wife, my child, in the number of their victims. I was a solitary wretch, dead to happiness, incapable of usefulness. I had exhausted all the misfortunes which the malice of fate could heap upon a single man, and I felt, deeply felt, that there are situations in which life is an insupportable burden. Jeghen, who had never quitted my bed-side, attempted to console me, and at last touched a chord that wakened in my heart the gloomy spirit of vengeance—"Do you forget," said he, "that the dead cannot avenge themselves?" This restored me to myself. I uttered no more complaints, but swore to exterminate every Imperialist that should fall into my hands.

Peterwaradin had been besieged and taken by the elector of Bavaria, while the Grand Signior had remained idle in his entrenchments. The prince of Baden, who had re-entered Hungary, was marching to attack him; having thrown a bridge over the Morawe, he advanced towards our entrenchments. The instant they appeared, the Turks decamped with their ordinary precipitation, and our rear guard was cut to pieces in defiles, where two regiments with four field pieces ought never to have been forced.

Some days after, the prince of Baden attacked us at Parangnia, a village near Nissa, which we had fortified by ditches and breast-works. I was asleep in my tent; the report of his artillery awoke me; I caused myself to be placed on a litter, and conducted to the spot where the engagement was most sanguinary. The janissaries were fighting like soldiers, and I was going to put myself at their head, when the horses that drew

my litter, were killed by a cannon ball. Several of my faithful Hungarians instantly raised the fallen vehicle and carried it upon their shoulders. Eleven of them soon fell around me. I could not endure this carnage among men who could make no effort to defend themselves; and, notwithstanding my extreme weakness, I caused myself to be placed on horseback. The German cavalry gave way, and I began to conceive hopes of victory, when the spahis suddenly abandoned us and fled. The janissaries instantly broke and became the victims of the most terrible slaughter. Borne away by the crowd, I was forced, in spite of myself, to fly, and escaped but by an inconceivable felicity of fortune, or, rather, by a fatality which reserved me to suffer new calamities. Nissa, protected by no other fortifications than a wall and a ditch, surrendered the same day.*

* See Note M. n.

At some leagues distance, the Sultan assembled the wrecks of his army, and encamped in a position so defended by defiles and ravines, that the prince of Baden durst not undertake to force him.* Here the unfortunate Soliman had some moments of relaxation, and this inaction delivered him wholly to the power of the bitterest reflection, that of losses he had suffered. He was no longer that haughty prince who had boasted, as he quitted his capital, that he would soon return to enrich it with the spoils of subjugated Germany. A profound melancholy had succeeded to the rash presumption by which he had been actuated. Humiliated by the recollection of the past, and trembling at the prospect of the future, like Mahomet his predecessor, he sought in me those resources of which he felt himself destitute. Conducted by Jeghen, he entered my quarters, affectionately embraced me, and told me, that he had

* See Note N. n.

come to throw himself into my arms.— Though moved by his frankness, I did not conceal from him, that his confidence was given a little too late, and that it would not be easy to repair the disorder in his affairs. Our interests, however, were the same; he had to retrieve the honour of his arms; I, to avenge the death of my father, the ruin of my country, the sufferings and the inhuman sacrifice of my wife and son. Leopold was our common enemy; to Soliman, a military and political foe; to me, the object of a deadly and irreconcilable hatred. I had little reliance on the Turks; little hope of success, scarcely a wish for happiness which seemed to me to have abandoned the earth when the spirit of my Amelia was called to its native heaven; but the demon of revenge had usurped the empire of my soul and wielded all its faculties. Disappointed, disconsolate, desperate as I was, despair to me became hope, and vengeance was to supply resources.

Promising Soliman all the aid I could give him to direct his conduct more wisely, I infused into his mind some hope of success, and raised him from the despondency into which he had fallen.

To retrieve the successive disasters he had experienced, it was necessary to undertake something fitted to restore to the troops that confidence which defeat had subdued. I suggested to Soliman, a plan of operations calculated to effect this, but which, from the extreme hazard of the enterprise, to timid minds, might seem to border upon rashness.

The plan was, to advance into Servia, and, leaving a few corps to hold the Imperialists in check, to turn abruptly to the right and retake Belgrade, the approaches to which were not defended; then to re-enter Hungary and cut off the retreat of the prince of Baden.— This plan, to which the very excess of its boldness, might, perhaps, ensure suc-

cess, appeared to me the only one to be followed, and I entreated of his highness, that we might adopt and execute it without delay.

We were concerting measures necessary to the execution of this design, when a courier brought the news of a rupture between France and the empire. Louis the XIV. as a pretext to commence hostilities, had alleged the illegal nomination of prince Joseph of Bavaria to the electorate of Cologne; but his real motive was, a desire to conquer the Low Countries and to weaken Leopold in Italy. He had chosen this juncture, presuming that this prince, harrassed by the Turks and distrustful of the Hungarians, would find it difficult to keep the field against so many enemies. The packet, among other papers, enclosed a letter addressed to me. It was from the Marquis de Torci, who, without saying a word of the king his master, informed me of the remittance of three

millions* into the hands of the French ambassador at Constantinople. This sum was to be appropriated to raise new levies in Hungary; and the marquis added, that eighty ships of the line and six corps of infantry, the smallest of which amounted to fifty thousand men, would so occupy the Emperour and his allies, as to leave the Grand Signior absolute master of his operations.

I immediately communicated to his highness, M. de Torci's letter. From its contents, he conceived the most brilliant hopes, and we determined to follow, most punctually, the plan I had suggested.

The time was most favourable to us. The Emperour, intimidated by the formidable preparations of France, hastily ordered his troops to file off towards the different points menaced by Louis XIV. He opposed Eugene to Catinat,

* See Note O. o.

and the prince of Baden was left almost alone in Hungary.

We decamped by night, leaving Jeghen with fifteen thousand men, in the entrenchments. After a march of three days we re-passed the Morawe, and fifty thousand soldiers whom the Austrians supposed beaten and dispersed in Servia, suddenly appeared before Belgrade.

Count Guy de Starembergh, who commanded in the town, was astonished to find himself besieged by an army, the very existence of which he had not suspected. He, nevertheless, did all that could be expected from a brave officer; for he made such defence as honour and duty demanded; but feeling that it was utterly impossible for him to obtain succours, or continue the defence without them, he demanded and obtained an honourable capitulation.*

* See Note P. r.

At the head of thirty thousand men, I immediately entered Lower Hungary; dispersed some parties of Imperialists and re-took several places, while the prince of Baden, who thought he had all the Ottoman forces in front of him, remained profoundly ignorant of what was passing in his rear.

Though the season was far advanced, I was of opinion, that we ought to profit by these first advantages; and, accordingly, I disposed myself to pass the Danube, in order to fall upon the imperial army by which Jeghen was blockaded in his entrenchments, which thus caught between two fires, must infallibly be destroyed. Every thing was in readiness for this expedition, when the river, swoln by continual rains, overflowed, and inundated the country. I had no boats; to procure them, time was necessary; the prince of Baden could not long remain ignorant of the taking of Belgrade, and was too well skilled in the art of war, to wait for me in a dis-

advantageous position. I did not wish to hazard a battle, the loss of which would be followed by that of the towns which I had re-taken. These considerations induced me to put my troops into winter quarters ; after which, I rejoined the Grand Signior and departed with him for Constantinople.

Arrived there, the Sultan gave orders for the raising of new troops, and caused every preparation to be made for opening the next campaign with éclat. I received the money deposited in the hands of the French ambassador, and returning without delay to Belgrade, lavished gold in Sclavonia and Lower Hungary. Deceived by some, by others ill served, I collected only nine or ten thousand men, the greater number of whom consisted of those vagabond adventurers, who, having nothing to lose, sell themselves to the first purchaser.— On such soldiers I could have but little reliance ; I nevertheless, attempted to make the best of them, by means of good

organization and the most rigid discipline. For this purpose, I incorporated into every company, a number of my veteran Hungarians, in the hope that the recruits would imbibe their spirit; and, having drilled and exercised them all winter, at the approach of spring, I joined the Ottoman army, at Sophia, in Bulgaria, where the Grand Signior had fixed his general rendezvous.

The army was numerous, and apparently in the best order possible. The success which had closed the preceding campaign had inspired every heart with courage; and I proposed to the Sultan, that we should take advantage of the ardour of the troops and re-enter Hungary. Misfortune had rendered him docile; he charged me with his orders, and we decamped the same day. We passed the Danube and entered the Banat of Temeswar, I keeping in advance at the head of my corps, in order to observe the enemy, and profit by any fa-

vourable occasions that should present themselves.

The Imperial army was assembled at Verismarton; it consisted of only fifty thousand men; but they were commanded by *Eugene*, whose talents multiplied his resources. He detached the young Prince de Vaudemont with ten thousand men, ordering him to seek, and fight me. He obeyed, advancing by forced marches; but I, being apprised of his march, anticipated him, and we met near Zeige, where an engagement immediately began. My Slavonians fled at the first onset; and, finding myself obliged, with five thousand men, to sustain the attack of ten thousand Imperialists, emboldened by the first advantage, I instantly changed my order of battle. Placing my rear against a mountain, supporting my right by a wood, and having on my left, an impracticable morass; the prince, in spite of his superiority, could not attack me. I was sensible, however, that this

manoeuvre, though it saved me at the moment, might produce fatal consequences, and the more so, when I observed that the prince had also changed his position ; having placed himself between the Turkish army and us, he had made it necessary for us to defeat him, to surrender, or to be cut to pieces.

Night separated the two armies, who had equal need of repose. The Imperialists slept upon the field of battle ; I was occupied in reflecting on some means to extricate myself from the dilemma in which I was placed. To this intent, I was profoundly meditating, when a centinel came to announce, that two thousand of my soldiers had thrown themselves into the wood, and were undoubtedly passing over to the enemy. Running to my right quarter, I found it, in fact, evacuated. I now felt, that we were lost beyond redemption, unless some decisive resolution instantly adopted and executed, should save us. I addressed my soldiers, telling them, that

I believed them incapable of imitating the base wretches who had abandoned us, and that I was persuaded they would second me as they had hitherto done. The three thousand men who remained, were most of them of those veteran Hungarians, accustomed to conquer under my orders. A shout of—" *Long live Tekeli,*" assured me of their ardour and fidelity. We left our artillery and baggage at the entrance of the wood, descended silently into the plain, and furiously attacked the Imperialists.—Troops surprised in the dark, being half asleep, undressed and unprepared for action, are necessarily beaten. We killed or put to flight all that came in our way. The Prince de Vaudemont precipitately abandoned the field, left his equipages, and assembled at a league's distance, the wrecks of his army. I spiked his cannon, turned towards the Turkish army, and marched during the rest of the night. I had lost only forty men, the prince had lost two thousand; but this advantage would not avail me,

if I should be obliged to sustain a third combat, the enemy being still sufficiently numerous to overwhelm me. Sensible of this, I advanced with the utmost diligence, towards the Merisch, hoping to pass that river at Chonod and rejoin the main body of the army, which was not far distant. The prince, easily penetrating my design, left me no time to execute it, but appeared about noon with four thousand cavalry upon the heights of Hedin.

Thinking I could withstand his attack, I halted ; but an hour afterwards, I saw all his infantry divided in two columns, advancing on his wings, undoubtedly with the intention to take me in flank as soon as the cavalry should begin the action. Thus situated courage and prudence were useless. I had six hundred cavalry ; I ordered them to throw away their portmanteaux, and to take each a foot soldier behind him and pass the river as soon as possible.

P

I spurred my horse, and followed by seven officers only, crossed the Merisch, and arrived at the Grand Signior's quarters, without army, equipages or money. All my infantry surrendered to the prince ; my cavalry, dispersed here and there, were almost all killed or taken.

Afflicting as this check was, it was trifling, compared with the disastrous event which soon succeeded, and decided my fate during the remaining part of my life. We had resolved to form the siege of Segedin, an important place, the possession of which would render us masters of the Teysse, and of the whole country between that river and the Danube. Prince Eugene advanced to cover this city, and encamped at the distance of a mile from Zenta, a small borough situated on the west bank of the Teysse. This army was very inferior to ours in number, and I gave my opinion in favour of a general engagement. If we should be victors, all Hungary

would be open to us ; if, on the contrary, we were worsted, Belgrade offered us a sure retreat. We had not conceived the thought, that we could possibly be completely beaten.

We accordingly advanced and crossed the Teyesse upon a bridge of boats. Between the villages of Perlek and Zenta there is an extensive plain, so perfectly level, as to seem formed for a theatre to the horrors of war. Here we encamped. I was too well acquainted with the Turks, and too sensible of what was to be apprehended from Eugene's activity, to neglect any precaution. I caused two strong entrenchments to be made in front of the army, which was defended by the river, and flattered myself, that Eugene would, at last, be caught in some false manoeuvre from which I might profit ; of this he was incapable.

What was my astonishment, when I saw the Imperial army pass the defiles

of the mountains, descend into the plain and form in order of battle ! That forty thousand men should dare to attack a hundred thousand in entrenchments fifteen feet high, and defended by eighty pieces of heavy artillery, was unprecedented. Eugene alone could have made such an attack with the possibility of success. He advanced in spite of the express prohibition of the Emperor, in whose opinion it was not adviseable to hazard a decisive battle. The Grand Signior panic-struck by the boldness and diligence he displayed, gave orders for re-passing the river. Outrageous at this cowardice, I represented to him, that he would be attacked before ten thousand men would get to the opposite bank ; that Eugene would not fail to take advantage of the disorder inseparable from so precipitate a retreat, and the campaign would be lost. I added, that instead of repassing the river, he ought to destroy the bridge, and make it necessary for his troops to conquer or die. He was sensible of the

solidity of this advice, but had not courage to follow it. The janissaries, remarking the terror that blanched his lips and agitated his features, caught the contagion, which being instantaneously spread from rank to rank, all pressed towards the bridge, over which the Sultan first passed, followed by a thousand cavalry.

I continued in the entrenchments, where I endeavoured to re-establish order and to restore confidence. Scarcely two hours of the day remained ; it seemed impossible that Eugene should vanquish in so short a time ; but, no more was necessary to him.

He had advanced his wings in such a manner as to embrace at once the centre and flanks of the entrenchments, and to put him in a situation to attack us at all points. This manoeuvre gave the Imperialists a front so much too extensive for their number, that to defeat them nothing but resolution was neces-

sary ; but Eugene knew his enemy. He had conceived the idea of myself attacking his centre, and charging his wings with all our cavalry, and ordered a body of eight thousand janissaries to follow me—not a man obeyed. I implored the grand vizier to force them to march. I told him I would pledge my life that we should be victorious. His orders were no more regarded than mine, and I judged the battle lost, even before it commenced. A sentiment of honour alone decided me to do my duty.

At six in the evening the action began on the left, and in a moment became general.* The same janissaries who had refused to quit their entrenchments, felt the necessity of defending them, and our artillery produced astonishing effect. Eugene's left wing broke ; he immediately detached from his second line, four regiments of infantry, four squadrons of horse and several field-

* See Note Q. q.

pieces ; this reinforcement put it in the power of the broken corps to rally and recover their ground. The attack recommenced with increased warmth ; large breaches were soon made in the entrenchments, and the enemy mounted to the assault in seven different places. After an hour's desperate contest, they carried our first entrenchment. In much disorder, we retired into the second, but Eugene was so close at our rear, that it was impossible for me to rally and form the battalions. The Turks, with the utmost precipitation, crowded towards the bridge, which was obstructed in a moment by order of Eugene. Many who escaped the enemy's sword threw themselves into the Teyssé and perished.—The Imperialists finding no further resistance made frightful carnage among the vanquished. The grand vizier and almost all the bashaws were massacred. I had early in the action received a slight wound, but scarcely conscious of it, continued in the engagement, where the death I desperately braved, seemed

commissioned to spare me alone ; fighting with the hopeless fury of a maniac, my wound bled so profusely that I at length fainted and fell among the dead. It must have been near the close of this scene of slaughter when I swooned, for when I awoke to consciousness, the entrenchments, where the blood ran in rivulets, were evacuated. I rose, and groped about, to attempt escaping from this horrid place. The night was so fearfully dark, that my imagination alone, saw the ghastly features and mangled limbs of the corpses over which I every instant stumbled. It was the 11th of September and intensely hot ; sick with horror, and exhausted by loss of blood, I again sunk to the earth—a breeze swept over the surface of the Teyse and revived me ; continuing for half an hour, it unshrouded the stars and their glimmering rays enabled me to find the bank of the river, which I reached, and detaching a skiff that was entangled among the willows, I crossed, advanced at random, and continued

to walk till the dawn of day, when I perceived that Providence had guided my darkling steps; for arms, camp-equipages, and other indications of the precipitate retreat of an army, shewed me that I was on the route the Grand Seignior had taken. Notwithstanding my excessive weakness and the fatigue I had undergone, the agitation of my soul gave me a feverish energy, and I pressed onward on foot, nor stopped till I arrived at Temeswar, eight leagues distant from Zenta, where I found his highness a prey to the most cruel despair.

The loss of the Turks on this unfortunate day, is incalculable, and the detail of it would appear romantic, were it not preserved in the history and all the memoirs of the time. Twenty thousand men were killed on the spot, ten thousand drowned in the Teysse, and three thousand were made prisoners. All the tents of the army, with that of the Sultan, estimated at forty thousand German

florins, nine thousand chariots, richly loaded with various munitions of war, fifteen thousand oxen, six thousand camels, a hundred pieces of heavy artillery, sixty field pieces, and four hundred and twenty-three standards, that night fell into the hands of the victors. The next day, they found a scimitar of immense value, which had belonged to the Sultan; and also, his chariot of state, in which were half a dozen of the wretched inmates of the seraglio, whom in his terror, he had basely abandoned to the mercy of an infuriate soldiery; the military chest which contained three millions of florins, and various equipages of war, and articles of Asiatic luxury.

Utterly confounded by the events of this disastrous day, the miserable Sultan either could not or would not examine the resources which he still possessed. Wholly governed by his fears, he would think of nothing but peace, and secretly deputed Jeghen to Eugene to demand a truce. This demand sufficient-

ly evinced his inability to continue the war, and consequently he received from the prince only a passport for two Turkish officers to go to Vienna. Two bashaws were accordingly, immediately despatched to negotiate with the minister of Leopold. In vain did I oppose their departure; in vain urge, that being still masters of Temeswar, of Belgrade, and several other important places, we might, by assembling the different corps we possessed in Bosnia, and incorporating them with the numerous detachments, that were every instant arriving from Zenta, still re-organize an army more numerous than that of Eugene; and that Catinat, with his French gendarmerie, had, at the battle of Marsaille, proved to this great man, that no one is always invincible.* To hear the language of reason we should be calm and self-possessed, the Sultan was neither; excessive discouragement and dismay had subverted all his faculties, and I

* See Note R. 2.

perceived that my frankness had displeased him: From that moment he avoided all intercourse with me, and by an affected reserve and hauteur, announced my disgrace.

Some nights after my last conference with his highness, I was sitting in my apartment devouring the humiliation of depending on such a man, and the misery of being reduced to subsist on his bounty, when Jeghen entered. Impelled by the esteem he had conceived for me, he had come to reveal the secrets of his master. He informed me, that the two sovereigns had appointed plenipotentiaries to treat of peace; that they were to meet immediately at Carlowitz; that he was one of those whom the Sultan had chosen; and, that their instructions were, to refuse nothing to Leopold.—I thanked him for this proof of his attachment, but said not a word which could discover the conflicting emotions that agitated my mind.

The moment he was gone, I gave myself up to serious reflection on the critical situation in which I was. I had no doubt that peace would be concluded. The facility of the Sultan would obviate every difficulty. Thus my hopes were now utterly annihilated.—The Emperor irritated at me as the cause of hostilities' having been so long continued, might demand my life, and Jeghen was to refuse him nothing.*—What is the tie by which even the most wretched being clings to life?—To me it is inexplicable. All that could render it dear to me had long been lost. The hope of vengeance, the single object for which I had consented to endure existence, had now also perished; yet, the death which I had so repeatedly braved in battle, on which I had accustomed myself to look with contempt, this death seemed robed in terrors when I thought of meeting it upon a scaffold where the soul ceases to be sustained by

* See Note S. s.

hope and honour. I resolved to fly, to plunge into the thickest shades of obscurity, and escape from every human eye. I sent away all my attendants under different pretexts, put on the dress of one of my lower servants, sewed Amelia's letters in a leathern belt which I fastened under my clothes about my waist, and securing also a little money which I still possessed, I left my house and passed the remaining part of the night under the portico of a mosque. At the first dawn of day I left the city on foot, and passed before the same posts, where a few hours before, they had fatigued me with homage, and where now not the slightest attention was granted me. Sovereigns of the earth! thought I, with a bitter sigh, what would you be, divested of the splendour that surrounds you?—Alas! I was still weak enough to regret the loss of fortune's baubles; the destruction of ambition's hopes; but I had courage enough to submit to inevitable evil.

At some distance from the city I stopped to reflect what course I should take. That king who had been so proud of his regal honours, that general so often victorious, whose name had, for fourteen years, filled Europe and part of Asia, now stripped of all his dignities, sat at the foot of an oak, calculating how many times a few paltry pieces of gold would save him from famishing of hunger! It is in such circumstances that we are brought to acknowledge, that all men have one common origin, that their real necessities reduce them to the same level, and that to labour in some way or other, is by the law of nature, or rather of Providence, the lot of all. My subsequent experience has convinced me, that he who daily tempts the faithless ocean, tills the rudest soil, or even he who at some wealthy despot's command, wrests pernicious treasures from the caverns of the earth, is happy, is blest, compared with him, who pursuing ambition's dazzling phantoms, toils on, though precipices frown above

his head, gulphs yawn at his feet, and angry elements flash around for his destruction. But as yet I was not undeceived; to my deluded imagination, the mad and selfish ambition, and the ferocious spirit of revenge which had plunged me into this abyss of wretchedness; still wore the specious forms of glory and of patriotism; the sanguinary course through which they had impelled me, seemed the path of honour, the avenue to fame. It was not till years of retirement had calmed the fever of my soul, and elevated it to a correspondence with the tremendous yet beneficent power who formed it, that I ceased to regret the idols at whose shrine I had immolated the repose and happiness of my life; in whose worship I had sullied the purity and wasted the sensibilities of my heart.—Then, and not till then, I became sensible that the enjoyment and rectitude of individuals form what alone has a claim to the name of public happiness and public virtue: the career of arms, like the course of a baleful

meteor, is bright, but disastrous; the splendour of my own achievements disappeared, and I saw nothing but the evils which had followed in their train.

Absorbed in gloomy thought, I found myself, without having intended to take that direction, on the bank of the Temea. It was indifferent to me what route I followed, provided I withdrew from the territories of Leopold, and from the Turkish cities, in which I was too well known. A boatman was just getting his little vessel under way—I made an arrangement with him—seated myself in the bottom of the bark and committed myself to his direction, without deigning to ask where he was going.

We were alone in the boat; my companion was communicative, and addressed me several times; I answered only in monosyllables; till tired of my silence, he desisted and began to sing. The subject of his ballad was one

of my exploits. I confess I was so much gratified by this praise from lips that could not be suspected of flattery, that I could not forbear asking him if he knew Tekeli. His answer was—"He is a brave man, that is all I know about him." He then continued his song, which I had not modesty enough to interrupt a second time.

The Temes falls into the Danube a little above Belgrade. I again saw that place which I had taken a year before, and entered it at the very gate at which Count Starembergh had met me to receive my laws and submit to the terms, which I, as victor, dictated. On that day, I was received into the most sumptuous hotel, which was splendidly furnished for my accommodation, and where I was entertained on all the delicacies that luxury can bestow ; now I was glad to find an assylum and a frugal repast in an obscure and miserable inn. In the room into which I entered, I found several janissaries who were

talking of the battle of Zenta, and bitterly execrating the Grand Signior for refusing to follow the counsel of Tekeli: This was lacerating my still bleeding wounds. I left the apartment, and after taking a slight refreshment, embarked on board a vessel that was going down the Danube as far as Artzar in Bulgaria.

Every place I passed awakened the torturing recollection of a victory or a defeat. In spite of myself, my memory dwelt on the fourteen years of life which I had lost in the storms of political faction and in the desolating fury of war. I compared my actual condition with the deceitful dreams that had so long deceived me. They seemed more enchanting in the distance; glory had lost none of its brightness, elevation none of its allurements; my spirits shuddered; my soul shrunk from the gloomy obscurity into which circumstances had so precipitately plunged me; the torpor of despair benumbed my faculties, and I

was ready to plunge into the flood below, when the recollection of Amelia, like sun-beams shining into a dungeon, came over my soul, to warm and soften and revive me. In the agonies we suffer from disappointment in ambitious pursuits there is moral depravation, reason is stunned by the violence of passion, and revives but to mourn over the desolation of the brightest of our virtues: It is far otherwise when the heart bleeds from the disruption of affection's ties, and the spirit deplores the loss of domestic joys. In such bereavements we see the hand of Heaven, that merciful hand, which, while it wounds, applies the balm that heals, and snatches from us the sweet enchantments of domestic bliss, but to wean us from this transitory scene, and allure us to those regions where all of excellence that brightened our moments here, shall shine upon us in the unfading splendours of eternity. To the image of Amelia shrouded in mortality, the victim of suffering, of sorrow, and of death, succeeded that of

her blest spirit, waiting to hail mine, where suffering, sorrow and death never come. This image, while its influence on my soul lasted; operated like oil on the bosom of tempestuous waves; the frozen obduracy of despair gave place to the weeping softness of half subdued sorrow ; and the stormy and ferocious passions to the calm of mournful resignation. Yet think not that the demons of ambition and vengeance were, as yet, cast out of my soul ; their rage, which only slumbered, continued for many years to wake at intervals and embitter my existence. I enjoyed, nevertheless, at other intervals, a species of happiness, melancholly indeed, yet superior to any that I had derived from the heartless magnificence of courts, or from the bustle and tumult of arms.

On the tenth day after leaving Belgrade, I arrived at Artzar, and was so charmed with the situation of this town, that I resolved to go no farther ; but to seek there the means of subsistence.—

Opposite the town, the Danube is divided into different channels, which embosom a number of small but most fertile and beautiful islands. After having explored every one of them, I purchased a garden spot in the one which I thought most agreeably situated; and having had a small but neat cottage built there, I furnished it with a bed, and a few other articles indispensably necessary to my little household. Amelia's letters, the sole companions of my former self, I deposited in a box which I had procured for that purpose; and here I thought myself determined to live and die. I had, at first, avoided all communication with my neighbours, who were simple but honest fishermen; but as my feelings gradually lost their ferocity and assumed a character of softness and susceptibility, a character which disappointment and sorrow may change, but which vice alone can destroy, I suffered them to approach me; they spoke the language of nature; a language that once more found its way to my

heart. I had nearly exhausted the money I had brought with me and lived with an abstemiousness which struck my rustic friends with astonishment; they soon discovered the cause of it, and generously offered me all the money they possessed. I refused to rob them of their scanty savings, but begged them to instruct me in their employment. In a short time I learned their trade, which without being very laborious, procured them a frugal subsistence. I was employed part of the day in fishing, after which I went to Artzar, sold my fish; brought home what little provisions I wanted; supped, and then slept the sleep of peace.

Thirty years thus passed away, bringing every day the same labours, but also the same enjoyments. At an early period of my retirement, a calm at intervals had overspread the surface of my soul. In a few years, when the fervour of youth had abated, the stormy passions by which I had so long been agi-

tated, were hushed to repose. I ceased to sigh for the baubles of fortune; or to thirst for vengeance; yet I was not perfectly tranquil. That *maladie du pays* which has seized the spirits of so many illustrious exiles did not spare mine. In proportion as I felt myself declining to the tomb its influence increased. The sound of my maternal language, the aspect of my native country, were ever in my imagination. I was strongly inclined to quit my peaceful assylum and revisit Hungary. This inclination was combatted by reason, whose arguments always seem feeble when they are opposed by the heart. Besides, in gratifying my feelings, what had I to risk? Leopold was dead; I had been long forgotten, and years had effaced almost every trace of my former lineaments. Without telling them who I was, or whither I was going, I communicated to my neighbours my resolution to revisit my native country. I had been present at the death of their fathers, had instructed and caressed

their children, and rendered them those little services which the simple poor so affectionately and so gratefully appreciate. When I spoke of leaving them, they shewed a sorrow so lively and sincere, their earnest entreaties and artless caresses so deeply affected me, that I promised to abandon my project and end my days among them. An unexpected incident separated me from them and conducted me hither.

Jeghen was appointed seraskier of Bulgaria. As I had never attempted to acquire any knowledge of the events that daily occurred in the world I had forsaken, I was ignorant of this. He visited his government and stopped some days at Artzar. The commandant of this town, eager to ingratiate himself with the new governor, gave him an entertainment on the Danube. Refreshments were carried into several of the islands. In mine, which was the most agreeable, a sumptuous repast was prepared. I was absent, engaged

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in fishing; but, as I had nothing to fear from my honest neighbours, my house was open. Attracted by its neatness, Jeghen went in, intending to take a little repose there. I had that morning been reading over Amelia's letters; strongly affected by the recollections they called up, I had abruptly departed to my daily labour, and left them open upon the table. Thoughtlessness, or perhaps curiosity, impelled Jeghen to take up one of these letters, in which he was pleased at finding a language which he had learned in Hungary, but now rarely had occasion to speak. This letter contained nothing remarkable, it was merely an expression of tenderness; he took up a second; it was that which Amelia had written to me after her retreat from Vienna to Montgatz. It was long, and filled with secret details concerning the ancient disturbances of Hungary. Jeghen was astonished to find these things here. He called some of the neighbours, and asked who the house belonged to. He received for answer, that it had been

built by a stranger, who had inhabited it for thirty years, and who lived by his labour. He compared the dates, and full of vague ideas, demanded to see the owner of the mansion. I was sent for and soon brought before him; but as I had no recollection of his countenance, I shewed no emotion, but that of surprise, at seeing my house occupied by strangers. Jeghen looked at me a long time with intense earnestness; he then drew me aside and tenderly embraced me, exclaiming, in a tone of strong feeling—"Alas! dost thou not recognize "thy friend Jeghen?" I stared in my turn, and discovering under the wrinkles that concealed them, his once well-known and loved features, I fell into his arms. When we had mutually recovered our composure, he presented me to the commandant as a man infinitely above his present condition, and to whom the most distinguished regard was due. We continued the conversation in German. He offered me his purse, and his credit at the Porte. I was

grateful for his offers, but refused them, being too sensible to the charm of repose, a charm that I had never known till I withdrew from the tumult and bustle of the world.

The table was spread : Jeghen seated me at his side, and we entered mutually into a relation of what had happened to us since our separation. After the repast was ended, we walked together along the margin of the island. Jeghen used every argument to draw me from a retirement and mode of life which he represented as unworthy of me. I resisted all his entreaties, till perceiving him afflicted by my resistance, my esteem for him resumed so much empire over me, that my resolution wavered, and I half promised that I would call on him the next day at Artzar. At the close of the day he retired, and I found myself surrounded by my good neighbours, who were astonished at what they had seen. A seraskier lavishing marks of friendship on a poor

fisherman, admitting him to his table, and causing him to be waited on by his first officers, was to them a spectacle as new as it was surprising.

Dear as the friendship of Jeghen was to me, I had not been able to bring myself to resolve on sacrificing to it, the tranquillity so necessary to my declining years, and to which I had been so long habituated. I was certain that he would not suffer me to remain longer unknown. I foresaw, that he would disclose who I was, would force me to accept his benefactions, and perhaps to go and solicit those of the Porte ; either of which would be equally repugnant to my feelings. I was as little disposed to be a charge to my friend, as I was to creep before kings.

The kind of necessity of quitting my asylum, which now seemed imposed on me, re-animated the ill-extinguished desire to revisit my native country. I no longer attempted to controul it, but

formally conveyed my property to ~~one~~ of my neighbours, to whom I was most attached. I then put up my little savings, got into my boat, and crossed over to the eastern bank of the Danube, with not much inquietude concerning the future. A peaceful existence was all I wished, and I had learned, that every where, he who labours can live.

I abandoned my boat to the current, that it might not be discovered what route I had taken. I then cast a last look at my humble roof, which I could scarcely discover through the trees I had planted to shade it. The reflection, that I was quitting forever this cherished spot, where my heart had first felt the benign influence of resignation to Him whom I had for some years considered as my Father and my Friend, drew tears from my eyes. Oppressed and melancholly, I was tempted to return. I hesitated a moment, but the firmness of my resolution prevailed over my regrets; and leaning on my staff, I withdrew as

fast as my age would permit, and took the way to Hungary.

At Almas I changed my Grecian costume for that of the Hungarian peasantry. I travelled to Temeswar, to Zenta, to Zeige, and to Kiskore. I revisited every place that recalled to me my early youth, its triumphs and its disasters. I sighed and sickened at the sight of those plains which I had stained with human blood, and hastened towards the forest of Maklar, where I should find recollections more soothing. It was so dear to my heart, that I explored every part of it. I sought and found the little esplanade, where Amelia had first acknowledged me as the defender of her country and the lord of her affections. I recalled to my soul the enchantment of the sweet moments I had then passed there ; it was a dream indeed, but it was that dream of tender transport to the reality of which we hope to awake in heaven.

I went to the castle of Kewes, and entered the chamber in which my father had expired in my arms. I was deeply affected by the memory of this event, but this sensibility had no resemblance to what I had felt in the forest of Mak-lar.

Turning to the left, I came to Gram, my first conquest. Here I embarked upon the Danube, which I ascended as far as Vienna, where I wept upon the tombs of my wife and son. I saw the court of the emperor Joseph, whose place I might have occupied, if, instead of an host of Turks, I had possessed a hundred thousand brave men. This reflection cost me not a single sigh. I was, indeed, obscure and indigent; but I was independent of the injustice of men, and of the vicissitudes of fortune.

I had taken nearly a year to explore these different countries, and though I lived with the most rigid economy, my resources were sensibly diminished. I

therefore prepared to quit Vienna, and withdraw from the territories of the Emperor, where I was not free from a species of anxiety. I went to kiss for the last time, the sod that covers the ashes of Amelia. I then crossed Bohemia and Upper Saxony, and arrived at Lunebourg. This country, covered with forests and craggy rocks, instantly pleased me. Nature sheds a peculiar and touching charm over her wild and fantastic scenes. The eye is delighted in measuring those enormous masses, which seem to defy the ravages of time; and to the soul, those extinguished volcanoes exhibit the image of the terrible shocks which incessantly agitate empires.

I made choice of this spot, which was a desolate waste, covered with poisonous plants and inhabited by reptiles. I thought that no one would dispute me any production which my labour might wrest from this barren wild. I was right in this conclusion, for I have remained

the peaceable proprietor of this little garden, which the most laborious cultivation has rendered sufficient to my subsistence. I caught a goat which supplies me with milk. The rivulet which flows at the foot of the rock, furnishes me with fish, and its waters slake my thirst.

Thus terminated the recital of Tekeli, who read in the eyes of his auditors, the deep interest with which they had listened. "Are you satisfied?" resumed he, after a moment's silence—"Every tie that bound me to the world is severed, yet I have consented to see you! You demanded my history—I have yielded to your wishes. I have refused the benefactions of my companions in arms, and I receive yours! I know not by what powerful spell I am attracted to you; but with you I forget every thing but Amelia and my son." "We will restore them to you," answered Werner, "Amelia was a blessing of love; friendship gives you So-

“phia. My little Charles has his mother’s heart and will love you as she does.” “What more will you exact?” replied the old man. “We will exact nothing,” said Sophia, with that smile which was all her own—“We will entreat, and our friend will not resist.” She rose, took his hand and drew him gently forward. Tekeli held back; she took both his hands and looked in his face; he met her humid and suppliant eyes, in which seemed restored the imploring sweetness that shone in Amelia’s when she demanded—“And what will become of me?” A gust of powerful emotion shook his resolution; he followed her, and was from that day established in their family.

He lived with them under the name of Emeric. The tender cares of active friendship solaced his latter days, and its sincere and holy tears flowed upon his tomb.

THE END.

NOTES.



A.—AMURATH IV. by some historians called Murad IV. ascended the throne, 1623, at the age of fourteen years. He found the treasury empty; the resources of the empire exhausted by the disorders of the preceding reign; the janissaries mutinous and insolent; and the provinces in a state of declared rebellion. He commanded in person against the Persians, whom he defeated, forcing them to restore the cities wrested from his empire, in the reign of his predecessor; and, by the most rigorous discipline he subdued the arrogance of the janissaries. Having retrieved the glory and power of his empire, he died, 1640, the victim of excess in wine.

B.—The suppression of the office of Palatine, in 1678, and the appointment of a viceroy, entirely dependent on the Emperor, and subject to be recalled by him at will.

C.—Count de Serini was only an accomplice in this conspiracy of 1685; the principal was Francis Count de Nadasti, who, irritated against Leopold, because he refused him the dignity of Palatine, attempted his life; first by setting the imperial pa-

lace on fire, and afterwards, by poisoning the wells from which the Emperor's kitchen was served.— He was executed, April 30th, 1671. His accomplices, the Counts Serini, Frangipani and Tattenbach, shared his fate. This is the account given of the affair by the authors of *Le Dict. Historique*. Hawkins says, there was no conspiracy in existence against the Emperor; that he made use of a pretended one, merely to get possession of the estates of the accused.

D.—Here is an anachronism. The besieging of Count Etienne Tekeli by general Spark, took place immediately after the accusation already mentioned, as preferred against him; it was consequently in 1671, seven years before the suppression of the office of Palatine.

E.—The death of the old Count Tekeli, and the confiscation of his fortune, took place soon after he had effected the escape of his son, whom he sent, disguised as a peasant, into Poland. History does not say he was poisoned.

F.—Count Emeric Tekeli was born, 1658, consequently, was, at the time of his escape from the fortress in which his father was besieged, 13 years old. From Poland, where he first took refuge, he went to the court of Hermanstadt; Abaffi, the prince, made him his prime minister, and appointed him to the command of the succours he sent to the revolted Hungarians. In 1678, we find him at the head of 12,000 men, recognised as generalissimo of the malcontents, and commencing his conquests in Upper Hungary. Soon after, we find this army augmented to upwards of 20,000; Tekeli master of Gran and several other important towns, and refusing to treat with the Emperor, except on terms proposed by the malcontents.

G.—The translator would fain have made another exception in favour of that brighter glory which effaces the terrors of the grisly king, even when he appears ghastly with all the accumulated horrors he can assume. She would fain have made the narrator speak, as if inspired by that superior and more elevated heroism, which triumphs without support from the din and bustle and carnage of the ensanguined field; that heroism from which emanated the dauntless conduct of a Paul and a Stephen, rather than that which invigorated the counsels and nerved the arm of an Eugene and a Marlborough; but she had no right to make her hero so perfect a Christian. Fiction represents him resigned, but not triumphant. History exhibits him gloomy, bigotted and morose; restless and dissipated in life, and consequently either wretched or insensible at the moment of death.

H.—Count Tekeli's mission to the court of Hermanstadt, was in 1678; his marriage was (according to Moreri) celebrated at Montgatz, in 1682, after he had signalized himself by numerous brilliant achievements, and been crowned king of Hungary. The name of his countess was Helena Veronica; she was the daughter of Count de Serini, mentioned in a preceding note, and the widow of George Ragotzi, prince of Transylvania. This George Ragotzi is represented to have been an aspiring man, in whose character were united the restless activity of the ambitious statesman, and the determined valour of the veteran soldier. He had been a candidate for the crown of Poland, and to revenge himself on the Poles for disappointing him of that dignity, had formed an alliance with Charles Gustavus of Sweden, then at war with Poland. This alliance, together with the intrigues of Count Barczai, who wished to supplant him, drew on him the hostile efforts of Mahomet IV.

Leopold, under whose protection he had placed himself by treaty, perfidiously supported his rival. Ragótzki was several times victorious over his enemies; but, at length, in a sally against the bashaw of Buda, was mortally wounded, and died two days afterwards, in 1662. Michael Abaffi was his successor; after whose death, Leopold, usurping the government, so harrassed the Transylvanians by every species of oppression, that in 1704, they elected Francis Leopold Ragótzki, who had married the only daughter of Count Tekeli. This prince, like his illustrious relative, was driven by the tyranny of Leopold to rebellion and despair. In 1701, he was accused of attempting to excite the Hungarians to revolt; being in consequence, proscribed and persecuted, he actually, in 1703, put himself at the head of the malcontents. The Imperial council immediately passed on him sentence of death and the confiscation of his estates. He did not fall into their hands; but in 1704, was declared protector of Hungary and prince of Transylvania. He possessed many great qualities; was valiant, disinterested and patriotic. After the utter prostration of his party, he withdrew to the court of the French king, who had been his ally; from thence he retired to Constantinople; and died in obscurity near Rodosto on the sea of Marmora, April 8th, 1735, aged 56 years.

I.—For fifteen years, we must read twenty, the age of the Count, at the time of his entering Hungary at the head of the troops furnished by Abaffi.

K.—For these barbarous names, we may read, Eperies, Rosenburgh, Atsol, Newsol, Chemnitz, Bolsenaw and Lipa; names little less barbarous, but possessing the advantage of a place on the map, and also, that of being mentioned in the *Universal History*, as captured by our hero in the short space.

of time comprised between August and October, of the year 1678.

L.—Moreri says, that the negotiation for a truce was unsuccessful; the demands of Count Tekeli being so extravagant, that the bishop of Strigonia or Gran, Leopold's deputy, refused to grant them, and hostilities continued. The authors of the *Universal History*, say—That the Imperialists made an attack on the count's army, during the negotiation, but that the truce was, nevertheless, concluded.

M.—Neither of the authors above cited, attribute to our hero this selfish demand. According to them, he indeed asked much, which the Emperor's council refused to grant; but all he asked was for his country, viz: The free exercise of their religion; the banishment of those ecclesiastics who were suspected to be in the interest of Leopold; the restitution of confiscated estates, and of the churches, that had been shut by Imperial orders; and permission to elect a palatine of their own nation, &c. &c.

N.—Moreri says, that this journey to Constantinople took place in 1680; and that it was the indignation which Tekeli had conceived against Leopold, for having opposed his marriage with the Princess Ragotzi, to whom he had been attached before her marriage, that prompted him to solicit the aid of the Porte.

O.—According to Moreri, and to the authors of the *Universal History*, Count Tekeli was actually crowned king of Upper Hungary and the principality of Transylvania was promised him. Moreri says; also, that these honours were conferred on him to prevent his submitting to own the authority

of Leopold; which, in 1681, he offered to do, on terms that would have been accepted by that monarch.

P.—For his crown of Hungary, principality of Transylvania, and the powerful aid of the Ottoman army, Moreri says, our hero was to pay an annual tribute of 80,000 crowns.

Q.—History says, that this was the most formidable force ever sent by the Ottoman Porte against Christendom; that it consisted of 50,000 janissaries, 30,000 spahis, and 200,000 other soldiers, with an immense artillery, proportioned to the magnitude of the armament. Hawkins, in his History of the Turkish Empire, says—"This army, almost without order, presented in an immense space, a magnificence of which the Austrians had never before had an idea. All was gold, azure, and cloaks of great value; both men and horses, seemed rather dressed for a splendid ceremony than armed for war. The gold and precious stones which ornamented their arms, inspired the ardour of seeking this rich prey, rather than the fear of coping with those who displayed them." Vol. 3, page 308.

R.—Both Moreri and the authors of the *Universal History*, mention magnificent presents which the Grand Signior made Tekeli. They speak of a number of Arabian horses splendidly caparisoned; and also, of a vest, a sabre and a standard, glittering with gems, and bearing the patent of his Highness.

S.—Hawkins mentions this opposition to the vizier's plan, in the following terms: "As it is much easier to conceive great projects than to execute them, Cara Mustapha was for marching

“ straight to Vienna, in order, as he said, to attack
 “ the trunk of the tree at once, and get possession
 “ afterwards of the branches with more facility.—
 “ Tekeli opposed this proposal in the council with
 “ great strength of argument. He represented the
 “ danger of crossing all Hungary, and a great part
 “ of Germany, with two hundred and twenty
 “ thousand men, leaving in their rear a number of
 “ fortified places, the garrisons of which would be
 “ continually harrasing the corps it would be ne-
 “ cessary to detach to supply the wants of such a
 “ numerous army. He demonstrated the impossi-
 “ bility of providing magazines for so many peo-
 “ ple, in an enemy’s country, divided by so many
 “ fortresses, and in which the Austrians had so
 “ many soldiers.” He added, &c. &c. Vol. 3,
 page 304.

T.—Moreri says, that this coronation took place
 at Buda, in 1682. The authors of the *Universal
 History*, date it in 1683.

V.—These dates are correct, agreeing with the
 several historical accounts of the events which
 follow.

U.—The preceding account of the siege of Vi-
 enna, and the relief of it by John Sobieski, is sub-
 stantially historical. The number of the garrison;
 the arming of the citizens and students; the ruin-
 ous state of the fortifications; the scarcity prevail-
 ing in the city; the vizier’s motives for refusing to
 suffer the place to be carried by assault; the mu-
 tiny, and subsequent discouragement of the janis-
 saries, and many details of the siege are strictly so.
 But we search, in vain, in the historic page, for the
 wondrous efforts of our hero and his “ gallant band
 of veterans.” Yet, in unmasking this brilliant
 conduct, and shewing it to be a mere embellish-

ment, we do not mean to cast on our Count the slightest imputation of inactivity, cowardice, or want of character. The fact is, his conduct afforded so little foundation for such a charge, that Mustapha, after the council at Esseck (in which Tekeli so ably and firmly opposed his plan, as before mentioned) feeling his very silence as a reproach, determined to get rid of him, and ordered him to remain in Hungary and to besiege Presburgh. He obeyed, and marching slowly towards that city, while the Turks were before Vienna, he wreaked on all the Imperialists that fell in his way, the indignation which hatred of the Austrians and vexation at the conduct of Mustapha had kindled in his breast.

W.—The taking of Strigonia or Gran, mentioned in the preceding page, and that of Wissegrade, here related, are historical events, and happened in 1684.

X.—This affair of Weitzen and the isle of St. Andre took place also in 1684, and is related by Prince Eugene as follows:—"After having taken with him, (*the Duke of Lorraine*) Wissegrade, Gran and Weitzen, and sustained a glorious combat near this last place, we had a more desperate one near the isle of St. Andre. They say, that I performed a very skillful manoeuvre at the head of my regiment, which entirely routed the Turks. They cut them down at pleasure. The Duke of Lorraine had secured his centre by a marsh, his left by the Danube and his right by a mountain." Page 22.

Y.—Hawkins, in his *History of the Turkish Empire*, says, that it was the skillful and gallant conduct of Count Tekeli, seconded by that of the seraskier Shaitan Ibrahim, which obliged the Duke

of Lorraine to raise this siege of Buda. Eugene, speaking of this event, says that the Imperialists sustained many sanguinary sorties; that a general assault was ordered, but it did not succeed, and concludes with—"In short, after having lost thirty thousand men, the Duke of Lorraine raised the siege on the 1st of November, 1684. Page 23.

Z.—Hawkins mentions, that Cara Mustapha in 1683, accused Count Tekeli, endeavouring to throw on him the blame of his ill success; that the janissaries violently exasperated against the vizier, demanded his life; that Tekeli who had arrived to vindicate his own character, increased the indignation already excited against him; and that the fatal mandate being issued, Mustapha observing in the countenances of those around him the pleasure which this order caused, himself put the bow-string round his neck, saying—"It is time to die."

A. A.—Our hero was, in 1685, actually imprisoned by order of the Porte. His imprisonment was effected by stratagem, and he was sent loaded with irons to the castle of the Seven Towers; yet the account which Le Brun makes him give of this event, is a fiction. Carakaja Ibrahim, Mustapha's successor, who had accepted this dignity against his will, did not assume, in person, the command of the armies; consequently, the traitor was not the vizier, but the seraskier Ibrahim, one of those to whom the vizier had entrusted the command. Hawkins relates the affair thus—"Count Tekeli having attempted to cover Cassovia with the troops which he had raised among his partisans, the Duke of Lorraine sent Count Caprara, one of his lieutenants, to besiege that place. Tekeli, informed of the march of the Germans, despatched a courier to the seraskier Ibrahim, who had

"retired to Waradin, to solicit succours from him;
 "the latter sent back word to the chief of the Hun-
 "garians, that it was necessary for them to confer
 "together on their mutual defence, and that he
 "begged to see him at Waradin, where he must
 "bring only his lieutenants and a small escort.—
 "Tekeli, void of suspicion, complied with the in-
 "tentions of this commander, who appeared desir-
 "ous of succouring him, and was received at Wa-
 "radin with an apparent kindness. The seraskier
 "invited him and his principal attendants to din-
 "ner; but, after the repast, as they were beginning
 "to confer on the pressing wants of the Hungari-
 "ans in subjection to the Grand Signior, an oda
 "pacha entered the room, escorted by several ja-
 "nissaries. He read aloud a catcherif from Ma-
 "homet IV. by which the seraskier was ordered
 "to load the chief of the Hungarians with chains,
 "and send him under a strong guard to the castle
 "of the Seven Towers." Vol. 3. page 341.

B. B.—History mentions this general defection
 of the Hungarians from the party of the Turks,
 after the arrest of Count Tekeli.

C. C.—This second siege of Buda occurred in
 1686. It is cursorily noticed by Hawkins in the
 words following—"The Duke of Lorraine went
 "with ninety thousand men to lay siege to Buda.
 "The trenches were opened and the other prepa-
 "rations just begun, when the grand vizier appear-
 "ed with fifty thousand men at some distance
 "from the camp. The christians, superior in num-
 "ber, faced the Turks without slackening their
 "attacks. Solymán had the mortification to see
 "all the detachments that he sent beaten, and
 "even those that he conducted himself to make
 "the diversion. After a bloody and fatiguing
 "siege of two months, the Duke of Lorraine en-

“tered Buda through the breaches, and thus restored to the house of Austria the most important place and the capital of the kingdom of Hungary.” Vol. 8, page 352. The authors of the *Universal History*, give a minute account of this important conquest by the Imperialists; and through the whole, give the Turks the credit of having continued a most gallant defence for ten weeks, the time the siege lasted.

D. D.—This campaign was most unfortunate and disgraceful to the Ottoman arms. The Turks were every where beaten by enemies very inferior in number, and their allies and dependents in Europe, especially Abaffi of Transylvania, sought protection under the throne of Leopold.

E. E.—The release of our hero took place before the second siege of Buda. So, at least, we are informed by Hawkins, who concurs with our narrator in mentioning the little effect produced by the manifestoes he issued, and also in the character of the few men he did collect.

F. F.—According to the authorities to which the translator has had recourse, this coronation took place in 1687, and was followed by the rapid decline of the Hungarian party.

G. G.—The deposition of Mahomet and the elevation of his brother Soliman, took place towards the close of the year 1687. This account is not essentially different from the historical one; the event occasioned much clamour and confusion, but little bloodshed. Mahomet exhibited as much of terror and weakness, in his fall and abasement, as he had shewn of cruelty and insolence during his elevation. It may be proper to remark, that in the sentence to which this note belongs, a grand

vizier is mentioned, by the name of *Mustapha Kuprogli*; this was not the name of him who was appointed to that office at the period alluded to. At the commencement of the tumult which ended in the revolution spoken of, Sciaus bashaw was elected grand vizier by the soldiers; and his predecessor weakly sacrificed by his master. Soon after the accession of Solyman II. the janissaries again revolted, and committed the most infamous outrages on all that came in their way. In this tumult, Sciaus bashaw was attacked in his palace, where he was killed, bravely defending himself against this licentious-rabble. Mustapha bashaw received the seals of the empire, but was soon after deposed, and succeeded by Kiuperli, or, as some write it, *Kuprogli*, the third of that name who had held that high office, and discharged its important duties with a degree of intelligence, activity and energy, very rare in the members of any political body, which is destitute of the animating soul of liberty.

H. H.—As this sentence reads, it would seem, that the author meant to convey the idea, that the terms offered by Solyman were such as *Leopold* could not accept without disgrace. The truth is exactly the reverse of this. Leopold, persuaded, that the moment was arrived in which the Turks might be driven entirely out of Europe, ordered Solyman's ambassadors to be told, that he would listen to no propositions of peace, unless their master began by giving up all Hungary, and the adjacent provinces, Sclavonia, Croatia, Bosnia, Servia, Bulgaria and Transylvania; that afterwards, he would stipulate for his allies, and demand for the Poles, Wallachia, Moldavia and part of the Crimean Tartary; for the Venetians, the cession of the Morea, &c. &c. Upon the commissioners' refusing to make these stipulations, they were im-

prisoned by order of Leopold, who, thus imitated the conduct of the Turks towards foreign ministers.

I. r.—Solyman, weak, ignorant and pussillanimous, never assumed, in person, the command of his troops in Hungary; with the intention of doing it, he indeed marched as far as Sophia in Bulgaria, and having there learned the success of Prince Lewis of Baden, his ardour abated and he returned.

K. K.—This siege and assault of Belgrade took place in 1688. Prince Eugene says it was most glorious and sanguinary. He closes his notice of it with the most whimsical levity, as follows:—
 “How we sometimes find, by the side of the most horrible events, something that amuses us! I did so in the looks and gestures of the Jews, whom we compelled to throw into the Danube, the twelve thousand men on both sides, to save the trouble and expense of burying them.” Page 33.

L. L.—The Countess Tekeli surrendered her fortress of Montgatz, in 1688. Hawkins says, that she had defended herself four months with the courage and conduct of an experienced general.—The authors of the *Universal History* say, that she was conducted to Vienna and shut up in the convent of the Ursulines with her daughter, her son being sent to be educated under the Jesuits at Prague.

M. M.—In 1688 and '89, the Ottoman arms were every where unsuccessful. The Austrians took Elock, Peterwaradin, Titul, Albaregalis, Belgrade, Nissa, Vidin, Orsowa and Pirote.

T

N. n.—Soliman, as has been observed, was not in Hungary, consequently, what follows is fiction.

O. o.—At the period of this rupture between France and Austria, Count Tekeli actually received a subsidy from Louis XIV.

P. p.—The brilliant success of the Ottoman arms during this campaign of 1690, must be attributed to the talents and energy of the grand vizier, Kiuperli, or *Kuprogli*; Count Tekeli was all this time in Transylvania, endeavouring to establish himself in the government of that principality, of which, since the death of Abaffi, he had been nominally prince or waywode. The taking of Belgrade by the Turks was facilitated by accident. A fire having broken out in a powder magazine, contiguous to the wall, against which all the batteries were directed, made a large breach in it; the bashaw who commanded in the absence of Kiuperli, who was keeping the Austrian armies at bay at some distance from Belgrade, taking advantage of the confusion occasioned by this circumstance, gave orders for an assault, and the town was carried.

Q. q.—The taking of Belgrade happened in 1690 as above mentioned; the battle of Zenta, 1697, seven years, of course intervened between the two events: And as our hero, during these seven years, bore no very conspicuous part in the several campaigns, they are slightly passed over in the narration, by the tenor of which the battle of Zenta seems to have been fought soon after the taking of Belgrade. In this short space of time, however, the Turkish empire had twice changed its imperial master. Solyman II. died in 1691, and was succeeded by his brother Achmet II. who dy-

ing in 1694; the sword of Othman was assumed by his nephew Mustapha II.; him who fled before Eugene at Zenta. In the campaign of 1691, victory hovered between the crescent and the cross; but as nothing decisive was attempted, it would be difficult to say which had the advantage at the close of it.

In 1692, Leopold reinforced his army in Hungary, and Grand Waradin was besieged and taken by the Prince of Baden.

In 1693, the Imperialists were unsuccessful in various expeditions against the Turks; the Duke de Croy was obliged to raise the siege of Belgrade, after having spent thirty-two days before it in open trenches.

In 1694, the grand vizier besieged Peterwaradin with 90,000 men; but the presence of Count Caprara's army preventing him from making any progress in the siege, he retired in September, into winter quarters.

In 1695, the Imperialists in Hungary were obliged to remain on the defensive, being opposed by upwards of 100,000 men, exclusive of Tartars, commanded by Mustapha II. in person. In this campaign the Sultan defeated the Austrians under General Veterani; but this victory cost so much Ottoman blood, that Mustapha retired to Adrianople leaving the command to the grand vizier.

In 1696, the elector of Saxony commanded in Hungary. His campaign was not very brilliant; he formed the siege of Temeswar, but was forced to abandon it; and afterwards attacking the grand vizier in his entrenchments, was defeated.

In 1697, Prince Eugene took the command of the army in Hungary, and repaired to Verismarton, whence he despatched the Prince de Vaudemont to disperse a body of rebels, who, under one of Tekeli's captains, had ravaged the country and taken Tokay and several other places. The

rebels retired into Tokay, which the prince carried by assault. After this, the Sultan took Titul, and attempted to besiege Peterwaradin, but was prevented by Eugene.

The next important event is the battle of Zenta, which is related by the authors of the *Universal History* as follows:—" Prince Eugene, having heard that Tekeli had persuaded the Grand Signior to besiege Segedin, sent a strong detachment to reinforce the garrison, and continued his march to watch the motions of the Turks. The Sultan being encamped near Zenta, on both sides of the Teysse, over which he had thrown a bridge, Eugene formed the resolution of attacking him in his camp. On the 11th of Sept. in the morning, he put his army in march in twelve columns; and about four in the afternoon, having formed them in order of battle, he advanced against the enemy who were defended by three entrenchments and seventy pieces of heavy cannon. The Turks began the engagement with their artillery, which was answered by the Imperialists, who at the same time advanced with their right towards the river, and their left towards the country. About six in the evening, coming up to the entrenchments, they attacked them with such impetuosity, that the Turks were immediately broke and put into confusion, and the grand vizier being killed while he was endeavouring to rally them, they made no more resistance but fled in disorder. The right of the Imperialists having broke down the bridge, intercepted those that fled, and put them all to the sword, not even sparing the bashaws who offered money for their lives. The ground was covered with 20,000 dead, and 10,000 more were drowned in the Teysse. The loss of the Imperialists was very inconsiderable, having only 430 men killed, and 1500 wounded. There was taken

“ from the Turks, 900 waggons, 6,000 camels loaded with provisions, seven thousand horses, seventy heavy cannon, 15,000 tents, with that of the Grand Signior. in which were ten women of the seraglio, the military chest in which were found three millions of money, and the archives of the Sultan’s chancery. That prince had fled to Belgrade with a single body of horse, and left the remains of his army entrenched on the opposite bank of the Teyssse, while Prince Eugene marched into Bosnia, took Seraglio, the capital by surprise, destroyed the fortress of Dobay, Magloy and Brandach, and loading his army with booty, led them back into winter quarters; himself returning to Vienna.

R. R.—For the remonstrances of Mustapha’s attendants on this occasion, see Hawkins’ *History of the Ottoman Empire*, Vol. IV, page 49.

S. s.—The authors of the *Universal History* say, that the Turks being able to obtain nothing for Tekeli, ceded to him Lugos, Carensibus and Vidin, with the title of a principality. Hawkins says, —“ It is to be remarked, that in this treaty, the name of Count Tekeli is not even mentioned. The Turks left him an assylum at Pera, in which he passed an obscure old age, with some succours furnished him by Louis XIV. We shall see in the sequel Prince Ragotzi who married his only daughter, the inheritor of the pretensions and the misfortunes of his father-in-law.” Vol. IV, page 68. Moreri says, that he died September 13th, 1705, near Nicomedia. His wife died, February 10th, 1703.

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